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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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The actor Stephen Rea, right center, walked behind the coffin of his ex-wife, Dolours Price, at her funeral in west Belfast on Mon. Jan. 28.
AP photo by Peter Morrison

Obama goes Irish with chief of staff pick

Says Denis McDonough will 'always give it to me straight'

BY NEDRA PICKLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama has picked a straight-talking Irish-American with roots in Minnesota and South Boston as his new chief of staff. Trusted White House foreign policy adviser Denis McDonough, a man the president described as a close friend, will succeed Jack Lew, whom the president has selected as the next Treasury chief.

"I know you'll always give it to me straight, as only a friend can, telling me not only what I want to hear, but more importantly, what I need to hear to make the best possible decisions on behalf of the American people," Obama told McDonough as he made the appointment last month.

Obama said that McDonough has played a key role in all the major na-



President Barack Obama applauds after announcing last Friday that Deputy National Security Adviser Denis McDonough, left, will become his next chief of staff. *AP photo by Carolyn Kaster*

tional security decisions of his presidency, including the end of the war in Iraq, winding down the war in Afghanistan, responses to natural disasters in Haiti and Japan and repeal of the military's

ban on openly gay service members

The president said that McDonough can be tough when he has to be, having been raised in Minnesota in a large family, although there is a Boston connec-

tion to that. McDonough reports that during their early married years, his parents lived in South Boston, where they had six of their boys. They then moved to Minnesota where he and four other siblings were born.

Obama teased that the father of three and former St. John's University (Minnesota) varsity football player "made up for modest talents with extraordinary dedication and a high threshold for pain."

Earlier in his career, McDonough worked as a foreign policy specialist in Congress, including as a senior foreign policy adviser to former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., before moving to Obama's Senate office. Obama joked that McDonough showed him where the Senate restrooms were and how to get a bill approved.

Adams accuser Price dead at 61; a central figure in BC tapes case

She said Sinn Fein leader ordered '73 bomb attacks

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN — An Irish Republican Army veteran who accused Sinn Fein party chief Gerry Adams of involvement in IRA killings and bombings was found dead in her home on Thurs., Jan. 24, according to police.

Dolours Price, 61, was a member of the Provisional IRA unit that launched the very first car-bomb attacks on London in 1973. She later became one of Irish republicanism's most trenchant critics of Adams and his conversion to political compromise in the British territory of Northern Ireland.

Police said her death the night before at her home in Malahide, north of Dublin, was possibly the result of a drug overdose and foul play was not suspected. But it could have implications as far away as the US Supreme Court.

In interviews Price repeatedly described Adams as her IRA commander in Catholic west Belfast in the early 1970s when the outlawed group was secretly abducting, executing, and burying more than a dozen suspected informers in unmarked graves. Adams rejects the charges.

Since 2011 Northern Ireland's police have been fighting a legal battle with Boston College in the USA to secure audio-taped interviews with Price detailing her IRA career to see if they contain evidence relating to unsolved crimes, particularly the 1972 kidnapping and murder of a Belfast widow, Jean McConville. Price allegedly admitted being the IRA member who drove McConville across the Irish border to an IRA execution squad.

(Continued on page 15)

Saluting Miss Madden

One of BC High's first female teachers, Mary Madden, a Dorchester native, taught math at the school at all levels for three decades in a character-building environment that, by her own admission, put a far greater focus on getting students into Heaven than into Harvard.

Greg O'Brien profile,
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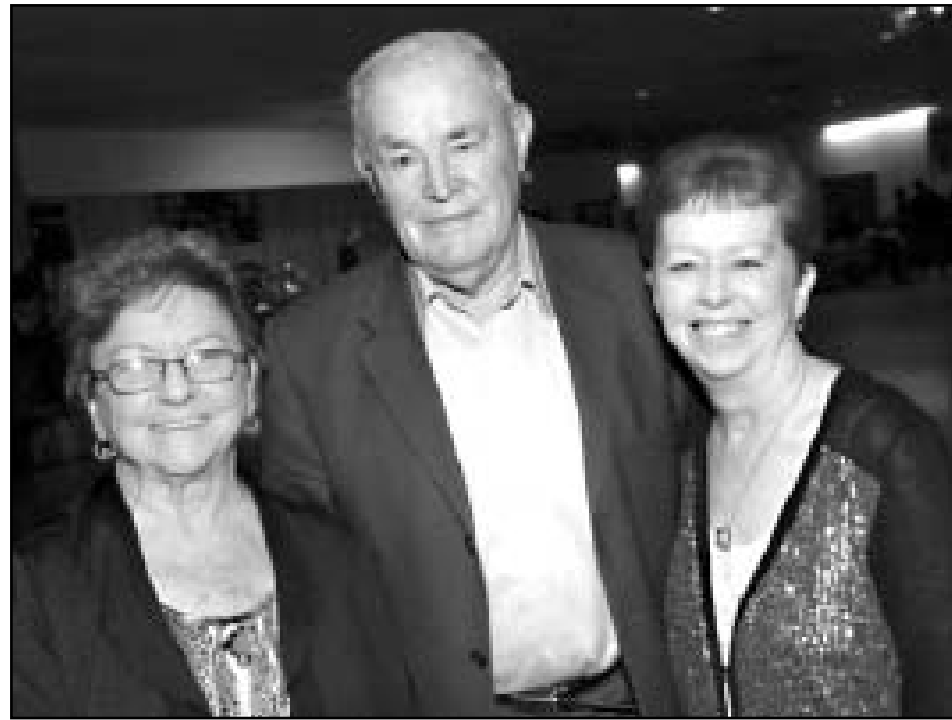
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From left: West Roxbury Irish Social Club President Mary Maloney of West Roxbury, Mike Hart of Braintree, and Kathleen Lundy of West Roxbury. Bill Brett photo

The Irish Social Club is ready for the future

By JACKIE GENTILE
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

The Irish Social Club of Boston is back and offering a thousand welcomes to members, guests, and inquisitive minds alike at its West Roxbury home. The club acquired a permanent liquor license early last month and so the 119 Park St. fixture, which earlier had obtained an entertainment license, is once again open for business.

Temporary operating licenses had been keeping the club afloat after its unexpected closure in April 2011, but the time-limited permits are very. When the liquor license was okayed, that meant a green light for the serving of all alcoholic beverages seven days a week until 1 a.m., while the entertainment permit allows the club to host musical acts and allow television programming, among other activities.

The liquor license application made its way to the Alcohol and Beverages Control Commission via the West Roxbury community, the City Council, the mayor's office, the Senate, the House, and, finally, the governor's office. This was no mean feat.

"I mean, this was a big deal!" said Mary Mulvey Jacobson, the club's corresponding secretary. "Now we can breathe and [plan to] make sure that something like this never happens again."

Member and fund-raising leader Kathleen Daley Adams is another powerhouse who has played an

integral role in keeping the club alive through the toughest of recent times. Mulvey Jacobson described her as the "catalyst" who, upon hearing of the club's closing, said, "Over my dead body."

Founded in 1945 by Mary Concannon and inaugural president Nora Hart, the Irish Social Club's first home was in Dudley Square's Hibernian Hall where folks participated in ceilidh dances, Irish step, and evenings with local musicians. Starting in 1962, the organization began offering members charter flights to Ireland.

After Hibernian Hall shut down in the 1960s, the club's next stop was on Stanton Street in Dorchester where it stayed through 1975. From then until 1980, events were held at the West Roxbury American Legion Post until a permanent home was found on Park Street in May 1980.

Renovations have already begun with two of the club's four bathrooms having been rehabbed. The kitchen will be remodeled and the ceiling tiles and carpeting will be replaced. There is a new sound system and TV already in place as well.

"It's a blank slate," Jacobson said. "The mindset is there to be welcoming and open and bringing in new people and meshing and melding with the community."

For more information, visit irishsocialclub.org/about.html.

Rita O'Connell; her life was a busy time

Rita V. (Layden) O'Connell of Duxbury, formerly of West Roxbury, died on New Year's Eve at the South Shore Hospital in South Weymouth. She was 72.

A graduate of Northeastern University, Mrs. O'Connell was a busy woman all her life: She was a manager of Capital Procurements at the MBTA; a founding member of both the Irish Cultural Centre and its library in Canton, Mass.; co-chairperson of the Deer Island Irish Memorial

Boston Harbor Project; a host with her family for the Cape Cod Irish Children's Program, which brought together children from both Catholic and Protestant traditions for an extended summer visit in the United States.

In addition, she was a member of the Holy Family Parish Choir in Duxbury for 20 years; a member of the Knights and Ladies of St. Finbarr, County Cork Club; a volunteer for the Mass Tiara Association with her expertise in Irish

genealogy research; and a founding member of the Randolph Ski Club, North Conway, New Hampshire. She also coordinated and ran the St. Francis House annual fund raising dance and was a member of the Irish Social Club in West Roxbury.

Rita was the beloved wife of Dr. William T. O'Connell; loving sister of Joseph Layden, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann of Westwood; dear aunt of Caroline Layden of Westwood, Joseph Layden III and

South Boston solon steps down; opportunity called, he explains

By GINTAUTAS DUMCIUS
NEWS EDITOR

Massachusetts State Sen. Jack Hart (D-South Boston) stepped down from his seat on Fri., Feb. 1, saying he was joining a law firm the following Monday.

Hart, who has served as the Senate's assistant majority leader, has held the First Suffolk District seat since 2002, representing South Boston, Dorchester, and Mattapan. "It has been an honor and the thrill of a lifetime, truly, to serve in the Senate over the past 11 years," Hart told the *Reporter* this week.

His departure sets up a special election for later this year, and Hart speculated that Beacon Hill lawmakers could seek to align its date with the special election to replace US Sen. John Kerry, who was confirmed as President Obama's secretary of state on Jan. 29. A primary for the federal special election will likely be held on April 30, with a general election to follow on June 25.

Hart, who was elected in a 2002 special election after South Boston's Stephen Lynch left the First Suffolk Senate seat for Congress, said he "really had no intentions of going anywhere." But the law firm Nelson Mullins, seeking to expand its government relations practice, approached him several weeks ago, he said.

"As difficult as it is to leave the job that I love so much, it is an opportunity and a new challenge and a new chapter in my life,"

Hart said. Hart's chief of staff, Jennifer Jackson, will be joining the outgoing senator at Nelson Mullins, according to the firm.

Hart previously served in the state House of Representatives, from 1997 to 2002. As part of his duties as South Boston's state senator, he, like Lynch and former Sen. Bill Bulger, has overseen the annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast. His Senate district is home to a wide variety of potential candidates who could succeed him, including state Reps. Martin Walsh of Savin Hill, Linda Dorcea of Lower Mills, Russell Holmes of Mattapan, and Nick Collins of South Boston. All are Democrats.

West Roxbury's Gormley organizing his 'Gathering Ireland 2013' expedition

In one of the first local commitments announced for "The Gathering Ireland 2013," West Roxbury's own "Lord Mayor" Richie Gormley, says he is assembling a group of friends and neighbors to visit the Emerald Isle this spring.

Organized with the assistance of Jim Kelly at Crystal Travel, the trip will feature nine days and eight nights in Ireland, and the group will travel by chartered motor coach across the island.

Gormley, a funeral director who owns his own ancestral home in Co. Roscommon, is a frequent traveler to Ireland, and he says he has designed an all-inclusive trip to reconnect Irish Bostonians with the land of their ancestors.

"My Gormley ancestors came over in pre-Famine days in the 1830s, and my mother's family came here from Leitrim and settled in Roxbury," he says. He has "gone home" annually for almost 40 years, and purchased the family's Roscommon homestead 25 years ago.

"I built a new house across the road, and it has a great view," said Gormley. "It's located about nine miles from Athlone, and I can see the Westport train from my home there."

Gormley is working with his pal and business associate Tom Dougherty in organizing the trip, which will leave Boston on June 5 and return June 13.



Richie Gormley

Entertainment will be by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Erin's Melody, Noel Henry's Irish Showband, and the Haley School of Irish Dance.

Irish Club Sponsors include: Braintree Irish Music Club, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, County Donegal Association, County Mayo Association, Irish Cultural Centre of New England, Irish Social Club of West Roxbury, The Sligo Association, and the Knights & Ladies of Saint Finbarr.

Suggested donation is \$20 per person. For more information, call 617-206-4943, or visit friendsoftheorphans.org.



Rita V. (Layden) O'Connell

Let us hope on immigration

“We need Congress to act on a comprehensive approach that finally deals with the 11 million undocumented immigrants who are in this country right now.

“The good news is that – for the first time in many years – Republicans and Democrats seem ready to tackle this problem together. Members of both parties, in both chambers, are actively working on a solution. And yesterday, a bi-partisan group of senators announced their principles for comprehensive immigration reform, which are very much in line with the principles I’ve proposed and campaigned on for the last few years. At this moment, it looks like there’s a genuine desire to get this done soon. And that’s very encouraging.”

– President Obama, announcing his plan for reforming the immigration laws, January 29, 2013

The national discussion over foreign nationals who live and work here without proper legal documents has at last been brought into the public arena for political debate in Washington.

It is an issue that for too long has been delayed, resulting in a two-tiered standard of living for many of our neighbors.

In the Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester and Mattapan, there are scores of residents who emigrated to our shores in recent years and continue to reside here without legal authority. Some of them are referred to as “illegals,” but the more proper term is “undocumented,” for they are here without proper documentation.

Calling them illegal is a derivative term that works to dehumanize and portray them as criminals. Truth is, most are persons who traveled here to our country on US State Department-issued non-immigrant visas allowing short term visits, for example as students or tourists, and then made a decision to remain here. When their visas expired they become classified as “overstays,” and fell into an anonymous netherworld.

Prior to 1996, overstaying a visa was treated as a relatively minor civil offense. If found to be in the country without legal status, they could be deported, pay a fine, and still apply to reenter the US. But that year Congress passed an immigration reform act imposing harsh new penalties, including barring a return to the US for as many as ten years, and those measures remain in force today.

The president’s plan for immigration reform announced this week includes four main goals: Continuing to strengthen border security, cracking down on employers hiring undocumented workers, streamlining legal immigration; and enabling such persons to earn citizenship.

It has been eight years since the late Sen. Ted Kennedy and Sen. John McCain authored the McCain-Kennedy bill, and six years since the Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007 was introduced. Those measures and others had substantial support from Democrats and Republicans alike, including President George W. Bush, Sen. Harry Reid, Sen. Lindsey Graham and other senators, the so-called “Gang of 12.”

Each time, compromises were made. And each time, all proposals failed.

This week, a new coalition of senators made known their commitment to move ahead this year with immigration reform. Coming just one day before the president unveiled his proposals before an audience in Texas, there’s the hope that a bipartisan resolution to these issues can be realized in this Congress.

This could be the time when the bickering comes to an end and a realistic resolution to immigration reform becomes a reality. Let us hope.

But let’s remember to not hold our breath.

– Ed Forry

A pageant for the ages

The inauguration of an American president is always an impressive and moving event, and last month’s event, taking place as it did on Martin Luther King day, added immeasurably to its historical nature.

The scene of the nation’s first African American President pausing under the Capitol rotunda for reflection before the bust of ML King was one of many poignant moments. In the words of civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, there’s a “straight line” between Rev. King’s 1963 “I have a dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and the inaugural of Barack Obama.

Let it be said, too, that Mr. Obama’s selection of Delaware’s Joe Biden to serve as his vice president has proven to be an inspired choice. Back in September 2008, on a campaign stop in Boston, then-Senator Biden told supporters that Obama was “the real deal,” and Biden had been assured by his Senate colleague that he would have a significant role in an Obama administration.

The Obama/Biden administration truly has functioned as an efficient team, as evidenced most recently by the VP’s recent role in fiscal cliff negotiations with intransigent members of Congress.

The nation can celebrate the fact that these two good men continue to hold the highest offices in our government. Let’s keep them in our prayers.

– E.F.

In 2012, the Irish American Partnership raised \$692,730 to support its mission

By JOE LEARY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Five Irish universities, ninety-four primary schools in the Republic, fifteen primary and secondary schools in Northern Ireland, and twelve community groups throughout Ireland received support from the Irish American Partnership in 2012 – a total of 126 schools and organizations benefitting from Irish America’s love of their heritage.

Revenue for 2012 – \$692,730 – was up 15 percent over 2011 with 89 percent spent on the Partnership’s mission in Ireland.

Says Mary Sugrue McAleer, Executive Director of the Partnership: “This was a very successful year for our organization. Our focus on education, specifically science education, was welcome in Ireland and endorsed enthusiastically by our national membership.”

In August, speaking to members of the Partnership’s board of directors meeting in Dublin, Ireland’s Minister of Education Ruairi Quinn said, “We applaud what you are doing. Please let your members know that we need your help and we sincerely appreciate your support for Irish education.”

The Partnership is a Boston headquartered 501C3 charity dedicated to organizing Irish America on behalf of Ireland and our Irish heritage. The organization, with a very small staff – one full-time and two part-time employees - draws support from throughout the United States and is particularly active in the Boston, Chicago, Albany, and Washington D.C. areas. The Partnership holds many events in these cities including golf tournaments in Chicago, Albany, and Newport, Rhode Island.

There are eleven members of the board of directors, from five different states and from Dublin. For more extensive details see the Partnership website, irishap.org.

Last year, the Partnership was privileged to hold

two events honoring An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Ireland’s Prime Minister, one here in Boston and one in Chicago. More than 700 Partnership supporters attended the events.

“The Irish American Partnership has a great track record in supporting worthy causes in Ireland,” said Kenny, “particularly in the area of education. I thank the members of the Partnership for everything they do to promote and support the great connection between Ireland and the United States.”

Working closely with St. Patrick’s Teaching College in Dublin and Mary Immaculate Teaching College in Limerick, the Partnership has for many years funded science teaching research and science teacher training courses in Western Ireland’s rural primary schools. New 2013 programs have been funded and already begun in Mayo, and more will begin shortly in Limerick.

The Partnership Northern Ireland programs will continue supporting transitional schools in the process of moving toward serving all communities. The Partnership is a supporter of the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland, and several other community programs.

Many donors take advantage of the Partnership’s program encouraging supporters to select the school or area in Ireland they would like to assist. In most cases, the institution or area selected is important to the family. A relative may have emigrated from the area, perhaps the family name is located there, or maybe a mother or father went to that very school. The Partnership forwards the funds, mentioning the donor’s generosity and requesting that an acknowledgement be returned to Partnership offices, which, in turn, send the acknowledgement to the donor.

This is a satisfying way to connect with Ireland and has proven to be very popular. In 2012 nearly 30 schools were selected by Partnership donors.

The success of the Irish American Partnership is further affirmation of the heartfelt regard both Irish and Irish Americans have for Ireland.

Joe Leary is CEO and president of the Irish American Partnership.

After we take our last at-bats, is that really the end of the game?

By JAMES W. DOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

A close friend of mine died recently. He had been sick for a while so it did not come as a complete surprise. As we aged, we would often talk of the inevitability of death and the importance of being prepared for it.

We joked we were in life’s on-deck circle, waiting with others to be called to bat. From this at-bat nobody returns. You can only hope your turn in the batter’s box will be delayed.

It is dark. Only the plate is illuminated. He steps into the batter’s box. A few practice swings and he’s ready. From out of the darkness comes the first pitch. He swings and launches the sphere into the night. Dropping the bat, he heads for first base and disappears into the blackness.

We speculated on what, if anything, lay beyond the last out. I argued that the existence of another reality is no more incredible than the one we now occupy. That we exist at all is implausible, so why is it so inconceivable that existence in some other form and in some other place is fantasy?

Is the mystery of life over at death? Is oblivion the only rational expectation? Or does the mystery continue to unfold in another dimension? Those who say that is pure science fiction must confront the phenomenon of earthly existence.

That this is all the result of some uninspired and unintended gigantic cosmic explosion – a cataclysmic accident generating an infinite series of coincidences – is more difficult for me to grasp than the more plausible concept of intelligent design.

If the universe, and our existence in it, is the product of some complex and mysterious plan, the author of that plan may have a second phase. If that is beyond belief, so, too, is this reality – yet we exist.

I am no more able to understand the who, what, and where of God than the more preposterous notion that we are all the product of a cosmic accident. Where did the stuff – matter, energy, physics, and chemistry – that caused the explosion come from? For me, the source is God.

To deny God is a leap into darkness. To believe is a leap toward a light flickering in the distance; dim, unreachable, but there nonetheless. Faith is nothing but the affirmation of hope. It is not a “born again” experience but a continuing struggle to find a reason for our being.

The man from Cork brought the Babe to Boston

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

“What’s Broken Can Be Fixed,” the full-page Red Sox ad blares. To launch that Fenway fix, the team’s brass has turned to an old friend with a Hibernian surname. Tito’s erstwhile pitching coach, John Farrell, pried loose from his managerial stint in Toronto, is hardly the first Sox manager with Irish roots. Among the many with ancestry from the old sod, Jimmy Collins guided the club (then the Boston Americans) to its first World Series victory in 1903; Bill Carrigan led Sox squads to Fall Classic titles in 1915-16; and Hall of Famer Joe Cronin took his turn in the dugout, too. None, however, literally hailed from the Emerald Isle except one – Patrick Joseph “Patsy” Donovan.

Donovan only managed the Sox for two seasons, 1910-11, after a splendid playing career that still has many baseball buffs pushing him to the Veteran’s Committee as a “Deadball Era” star worthy of enshrinement in Cooperstown. He compiled a mediocre 159-147 record at the team’s helm and an overall .438 winning percentage including managerial stops in St. Louis, Washington, and Brooklyn, hardly Hall of Fame stuff. As a scout, though, he had few peers, with one sportswriter lauding him as an “excellent judge of the ball player in the raw.” It’s hard to argue that compliment – because of Patsy Donovan, Babe Ruth and future Hall of Fame pitcher Ernie Shore ended up playing on the Fenway diamond.

Born in Queenstown, County Cork, on March 16, 1865, Patsy

‘Patsy’ Donovan boasted Hall of Fame credentials: player, manager, scout over a 64-year baseball career

was the second of Jeremiah and Nora Donovan’s seven children. He was three when his family emigrated to Lawrence, Massachusetts. As with many of the Irish children there, to help his family survive, he went to work right from elementary school to the hardscrabble city’s cotton mills. Young Patsy, however, had one chance to escape a life of endless hours and scanty wages in the mills. On the baseball field, he was a fleet-footed outfielder, base-stealer, and hitter who first grabbed scouts’ attention in 1886 when he starred with the Lawrence club in the professional New England League. Standing 5’11” and weighing 175 pounds in his prime, lefthanded at the plate and in the field, Donovan was not a slugger even by Deadball Era standards, but his abilities as a slap-hitter proved prodigious. So, too, did his strong, accurate arm and his base-swiping, 518 by his career’s end.

To the delight of his family and friends in Lawrence, his big-league debut came in 1890 with the National League’s Boston Beaneaters. His first stint in the Hub ended quickly when he was moved halfway through the season to the powerhouse Brooklyn Bridegrooms, who went on to win it all, the only time he ever played for a championship team.

After stints with the Louisville Colonels and the Washington Statesmen (they became the

Senators when he was there), he landed with the Pittsburgh Pirates, batting .300 or better for the next six years and doing double duty as the team’s player-manager in 1897 and 1899, earning the label “most successful Irish-born major leaguer” by the turn of the 20th century.

Shipped to St. Louis, he led the league with 45 stolen bases in the 1900 season and served as player-manager from 1901-03. The baseball writer David Jones notes: “In a decade that was infamous for rough play and rowdiness, Donovan was most admired for his quiet dignity and work ethic.”

Leading the Cardinals to a surprising ‘76-64 record in 1901, hopes were high for the next year as Donovan won high marks for “treating his players honestly and fairly.” Then, all of the team’s best players – except Donovan – jumped to the new American League, signing with the cross-town Browns. Guttled by the defections, the Cardinals fell apart. In 1903, the team finished 43-94, 46 ½ games out of first place; and Donovan was jettisoned by the front office. Since he was pulling down an \$8,800 salary that made him the game’s highest-paid player, the bosses found it an easy decision to make.

Donovan’s career was winding down; his last full season on the diamond was in 1904 as player-manager with the Senators.

Over seventeen major-league seasons, Donovan racked up 2,246 hits, 1,318 runs, and 736 RBI in 1821 games, with 207 doubles and 75 triples. He hit but 16 homers, but stole 518 bases and had a career batting average of .313. He was also one of the best right fielders of his day, gunning down 30 baserunners in 1902.

After disastrous managing stops in Washington and Brooklyn with subpar players, Patsy, always hardnosed and competitive, yearned for “the opportunity of handling a club where I would have free rein and financial backing to secure talent.”

He would get his chance with the Red Sox. After taking a job as a Boston scout in 1909, he was hired to manage the team in 1910 and 1911 and success was minimal with that 159-147 record. Although he was replaced by Jake Stahl in 1911, the front office respected Donovan both as a man and as a judge of talent and asked him to stay on as a scout. He agreed, having come to consider Boston his hometown. In 1910, he had married another Lawrence native, Teresa Mahoney, with whom he had three sons and a daughter. His decision was one that would help bring Babe Ruth to the Sox.

In 1914, Donovan the scout was dazzled by the pitching and batting talents of Ruth, who was playing for the minor-league Baltimore Orioles. Drawing on his friendship with a Xaverian Brother who had coached Ruth at St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys, Patsy persuaded Ruth that Boston would be a good fit for him, and then in turn per-



Patsy Donovan.
Library of Congress photo

suaded Sox owner Joseph Lannin to sign Ruth “at any price.” David Jones writes: “Donovan never claimed to have discovered Ruth – the young lefthander was too talented for his exploits to go unnoticed.” Donovan, however, was the man who brought the Babe to Boston.

In a baseball career that spanned 64 years, Donovan went on to manage several minor league teams and coached at Andover’s Phillips Academy, where he honed the talents of a slick-fielding first baseman named George Herbert Walker Bush. Donovan died on Christmas Day 1953 at the age of 88 (90, according to various sources claiming that he fudged his age as he started his playing career) in Lawrence and was buried there in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Former President Bush supported a push to try to get his old coach into the Hall of Fame in 2001, writing of his admiration for “Patrick J. Donovan... a man of the highest character.”

Donovan still hasn’t made it into Cooperstown, even though he was one of the game’s best players at the turn of the century. He would likely have enjoyed the fact that in the Irish Baseball League, the highest prize is “The Patsy Donovan Batting Champion Award.”



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www.runtohomebase.org

Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There

By BILL O'DONNELL
Irish Journalists Had Lance's Number – While the big media hotshots slavishly followed the exploits of professional cyclist **Lance Armstrong**, writing glowing tributes of the seven-time Tour de France winner, two Irish journalists consistently wrote the truth. For years, **Paul Kimmage** and **David Walsh** chronicled with growing skepticism Armstrong's claims, debunking the success of the racing phenomenon and calling



Bill O'Donnell

into question the rider's drug-free claims. Kimmage has spent at least a dozen years doubting Armstrong's assurances that his high profile victories were accomplished without using PEDs or similar performance-enhancing drugs. Kimmage, a former Tour de France rider from Dublin, dismissed the recent Oprah TV interview as "soft," saying that a tougher one-on-one by Oprah would have benefitted the sport. Armstrong has also been a target for over a decade of the Kilkenny-born Walsh, who has finally been vindicated after Armstrong's admission that he was a regular drug user. Walsh explained the Armstrong mystique by saying, "People gave Armstrong a latitude they don't give their best friends. Why? Because he's powerful. Because he's rich. I was a bit of a crusader...trying to convince them that Armstrong was a fraud." Walsh has recently been named Sports Journalist of the Year in Britain. **Obama May Join JFK Wexford Tribute** – President Barack Obama is firmly scheduled to attend this year's G8 summit of world leaders on June 17 and 18 on Lough Erne in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. Four days later, in Dungannon/New Ross, Wexford, a few hundred miles south of the G8 conference, there will be a dramatic 50th anniversary celebration there of President Kennedy's nostalgic June 1963 visit to Ireland. The question that is being considered now by White House officials and the American embassy in Dublin some four months before the G8 in Fermanagh is whether it might be possible for the president and his retinue to add some days to the Irish trip to airlift Obama to Wexford in the Irish southeast to join in the Kennedy event on June 22.

One young Democratic president and his voyage home to the land of his ancestors half a century ago could be symbolically joined by another young Democratic president to mark the historic occasion of the Irish government-sponsored commemoration of John F. Kennedy's visit.

The possibility that President Obama could do a quick side trip to Moneygall following the G8 summit and then move onto Kennedy country in Wexford is not out of the question. It is reported that first lady **Michelle Obama** is interested in a return to Moneygall. Stay tuned.

John Cullinane & The Ulster University Peace Forum – Entrepreneur and Irish benefactor **John Cullinane** (founder of Cullinnet, the Friends of Belfast, and other associations too numerous to name) will be heading to Derry in May for the Ulster University Peace Forum. John, who has made Ireland, north and south, his special concern, hopes to lay a wreath on his uncle's ship, the SS Laurentic that hit a mine off Buncrana in the First World War. John's uncle, his mother's brother, **Walter Fitzgerald** was from Dunmore East in Co. Waterford, one of the beauty spots of southeast Ireland.

Irish Boxing Champ In One Fight 'Comeback' – **Steve Collins**, 48, the Irish-born double champion who began his career in Boston, is soon to meet American boxing legend **Roy Jones Jr**

in a single-bout grudge match in Dublin or London. Collins claims that Jones avoided him during his 15-year career and even at age 48, he is eager to face Jones in the ring. Collins was a popular figure in and around Boston in the early '80s and at home in Ireland where he won 26 Irish titles in three weight divisions. He turned professional in 1986 and was the WBO's middleweight and super middleweight world champion. The former champion, who since his retirement has appeared in several movies and television shows, now lives in St. Albans, England, where he awaits one last match with the elusive Roy Jones.

Inez McCormack, Legendary Irish Labor Leader, Is Dead – One of Ireland's premier labor leaders and human rights activists has died after a 40-year career fighting for social justice and fair employment. Inez was active in numerous trade unions and was perhaps best known in Northern Ireland and beyond when she served as the first female president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Among Mrs. McCormack's close friends and allies locally was former Boston Mayor and US Vatican Ambassador **Raymond L. Flynn**, who made the following statement: "Inez McCormack was a fierce fighter for human rights and economic justice in Northern Ireland. Together she and I campaigned on both sides of the Atlantic for passage of the Fair Employment law for the Catholic minority in the North and throughout the US in behalf of the MacBride Principles. I will not forget Inez McCormack's courage and determination in standing up to powerful political

leaders in the North and was proud to stand with her as she helped change the face of Ireland and history." "Rest in peace, my friend. You helped provide hope and opportunity for thousands of people."

Another friend and supporter is **Frank Costello**, an economic consultant now living and working out of Belfast. He offered the following comment on Mrs. McCormack's passing: "Inez was one of the best people in the effort for fair employment — stalwart, brave, relentless, and true to the courage of her convictions. She called people into action. Without her there would have been no fair employment Act and likewise, the MacBride campaign would have been minus a main signatory and advocate."

A Portrait Of Rural Ireland – An updated statistical picture of the Irish Republic reflects trends and threads of a changing but relatively stable Irish countryside. For instance, Co. Cork has the most farms (14,222), Co. Dublin the least (798). Some 40 percent of the national farm acreage can be found in five counties: Cork, Galway, Mayo, Donegal, and Kerry. In 2010, Ireland had 139,860 farms, representing an 18 percent decrease since 1991. While Ireland has seen a decline in the number of farms, their size has increased. The average Irish farm is 33 hectares, or 80 acres. This is over 50 percent larger than the average in 1991.

Beef farming remains the dominant force in Ireland where 6.6 million cattle were spread across 111,000 farms. Co. Cork has 15 percent of the cattle. Beef production accounts for 55 percent of farms. There are 4.7 million sheep in Ireland, in 32,000 farms with the average flock of 148. The distribution of sheep is found mostly in the west, in Counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Kerry, and Donegal.

Scoundrel Time For The Old Crowd – Once again (and no, it's not a Mt. Everest thing) we take a closer peek at the perks & privileges of Ireland's ruling class, to wit: **Bertie Ahern**. I thought he was lying low and consoling himself at the loss of his Big Euro status at the speakers bureau after they decided to move on, or given that he had to finally hand over his longtime Fianna Fail hideaway on the North side. Yes, I sensed he was back to watching his pennies.

The former taoiseach's latest headbanger is his decision to reverse his earlier pledge to give back some of his bloated pension (over \$200,000 per annum) as some other former ministers have

done. No, shorn of his car and driver, no big speaker bureau checks, and other humbling stumbles, the veteran of the Celtic Tiger era is keeping every farthing of his pension. One never knows with the expenses of a new office to replace the Fianna Fail digs and buying a round for the boys in the back room, when that stunning state payoff will come in handy.

As my old friend, Boston radio's late and lamented **Jerry Williams** said so often of the fat cats who squirreled it away in the good times: "They'll never run a dinner for him." But Bertie, maybe!

Pats Beat Writers Knew The Score – As a former New England Patriots season ticket holder and 40-year armchair rooter, I never remember seeing more baffling, bizarre pro picks on the Pats-Ravens game than those that were made by the Boston Globe writers who cover the Pats full time. The predictions by the top four beat writers on that playoff game made on the Friday before the Sunday evening game all favored the Baltimore Ravens. Each of the Globe's four seasoned football writers (forget the points) all picked the nine-point favored Pats to lose to Baltimore. And that they did, by a not-close 15 points to end New England's season.

The ultimately accurate selections were made by the four writers, **Greg Bedard**, **Shalime Manza Young**, **Christopher Gasper**, and **Jim McBride**. All first rate football people, especially Bedard.

Scott Thurston (whom I do not know) was the fifth selector, and he picked the Pats to win.

If I were a little less lazy, I would pull the Pats coverage in the days leading up to the game just to see if the writers maintained their objectivity in their pre-game stories. I'd guess they did.

How Are They Doing, Gerry & Sinn Fein – Turning our attention to the political and judicial scraps from our Republican brethren, there are developments. First off, Sinn Fein is upset about CNN's World Report describing **Gerry Adams** as "a former IRA para-military commander." Maybe CNN got him mixed up with **Martin McGuinness**, who indeed fits the description. Gerry's party passed on any criticism of CNN for using the less-onerous label, "The leading Catholic politician in Northern Ireland." Apparently the retirement of **John Hume** freed up that designation, but CNN forgot the Adams sinecure in the free state as a Louth TD.

Once again SDLP leader **Alasdair McDonnell** and his party members have passed on any new spirit of cooperation with Sinn Fein. It's been eons since the IRA boys of Sinn Fein, were singularly unkind to the medical doctor turned MP.

Gerry Adams has been campaigning hither and yon for a border poll as he continues to trumpet Irish Unity, despite the real polls that place the unity question on the long finger. It once was 2016, centennial of the Easter Rising, but that been back-burnered. The unionists are tempted to agree to a poll on the North's constitutional future just to show up Sinn Fein, but new secretary of state for the North **Theresa Villiers** says no go.

Gerry has re-enlisted for three more years as Sinn Fein party leader. That will bring him a few years closer to 2020, the lads' new "to do" date on a unity referendum. Meanwhile Gerry has

been taken to the woodshed by a few malcontents who didn't care for his expensive trip to the States for some surgery while the punters without a party to their name are left to languish on some long-forgotten healthcare waiting list.

British PM Stonewalls on Finucane Open Inquiry – Prime Minister **David Cameron** has some fresh problems on his agenda such as escaping from the European Union, but he still hasn't come through with a public investigation of the **Patrick Finucane** assassination in 1989 that was long ago promised by the British. The most recent inquiry into the Belfast lawyer's murder

was conducted by a British government-appointed Queen's Counsel and although a biting indictment of loyalist collaboration in Finucane's death, it was not open and the family still awaits justice.

Judges and other British appointed agents of the crown have not covered themselves with glory in running down the details and conspiracies involving the death of innocent nationalists.

The following is an astonishing statement made by leading British Judge **Lord Denning** on the appeal in 1980 of the conviction of the Birmingham Six, later found innocent and freed after years in a British prison:

"If the six men win, it will mean that the police were guilty of perjury, that they were guilty of violence and threats, that the confessions were involuntary and were improperly admitted in evidence and that the convictions were erroneous. That would mean the Home Secretary would either have to recommend they be pardoned or would have to remit the case to the Court of Appeal. This is such an appalling vista that every sensible person in the land would say 'It cannot be right that these actions should go any further.'"

RANDOM THOUGHTS

The flag protests by unionists in the North and other opportunists have cost Belfast retailers millions of euros and are sending a wretched message to prospective businesses about the North's Instability.

... Ireland is finally following Europe's example and issuing plastic drivers licenses. ... An Irish trade union is mounting a legal offensive against Waterford Crystal for making its glassware abroad and not in Ireland. ... The Brits are doing it again. They have taken possession of the nationality of **Daniel Day-Lewis**, who carries an Irish passport and lives in Ireland. ... The golfer **Rory McIlroy** of the Number One world ranking has signed with Nike for ten years and \$200 million. ... Big question for former US Sen. **Scott Brown**: Does he run for governor after **Deval Patrick** concludes his second term or in this year's special to succeed **John Kerry**? ... The big, bad boys described as "dissidents" (but breakout IRA thugs) have been warning the Irish serving in the British military and PSNI members that they are targets. Try them and fry them, or throw away the key. ... A brewing medical disaster is in the offing for young Irish women smokers, with lung cancer passing breast cancer as a leading cause of death.

Is Facebook on your side? The social network's printed terms of service and data use run to 14,000 words. Do you know what you signed onto? Incidentally, Facebook's Irish operations had revenue of one billion euros but paid taxes of only 3 million euros. If my math is right that's three-tenths of one percent. ... Are the shameless Republicans red-faced for calling **Hillary Clinton** a phony victim of "Benghazi Flu" when she actually had a serious blood clot near her brain. Yes, fellows and gals, keep listening to **Rush** and his cadre of radio destroyers. ... **Michael O'Leary** and his Ryanair sometimes have low prices (but there are fees) and a recent poll shows passengers who fly the short-haul airline ranked Ryanair at the bottom in satisfaction. ... Billionaire **Bill Gates** was in Ireland recently and had nice things to say about the country's commitment to charity and he liked Ireland's mid-range recovery plan. ... Primate of All Ireland Cardinal **Sean Brady** has a new keeper sent by the Vatican to help him in his planned departure. The new coadjutor and successor-in-waiting is Monsignor **Eamon Martin**. ... **Junior Paisley**, sprig of **Reverend Ian**, is a fierce defender of the monarchy and the Church of Ireland as a key player in the royal succession redo underway, but Junior must have forgotten that he is a Presbyterian. ... After several failed burials for Aussie outlaw **Ned Kelley**, his family has finally received his remains and he will be interred in the family plot in Australia.

An Irishman living in Sydney, formerly of Limerick, just received an Irish orthopedic doctor's appointment after being on the waiting list for 17 years. ... Legal silliness: **Sean Fitzpatrick**, who "borrowed" 100 million euros from the bank of which he was chairman and never paid it back, is looking for a delay because there are 24 million documents to be vetted before his trial can begin. And how about Irish billionaire **Sean Quinn's** daughter, who went through half a million dollars in less than a year but says she doesn't have a bill or invoice to show for her memorable spending spree.

The good news, boys & girls: Less than three weeks until pitchers and catchers report to Florida.

IMMIGRATION Q & A

What to know about a green card interview

Q. I applied to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for lawful permanent resident (green card) status, based on my marriage to a US citizen. Now we have received a notice telling us to appear for an interview. What does this involve?

A. In cases where the application for permanent residence is based on marriage to a US citizen, the main purpose of the interview is to give a USCIS officer an opportunity to meet with the husband and wife and determine whether the marriage relationship is genuine. In the past, the two normally were interviewed together from the start. Now, however, the US citizen petitioner will first be interviewed without the applicant spouse (but accompanied by the attorney if the couple has legal representation). Then the green card applicant will be asked to join the interview.

The interviews generally are quite brief, and the inquiry into the couple's marriage typically consists of two main parts.

The officer will likely ask the couple some questions that pertain to the marriage relationship. The questions can seem quite trivial, but they are designed to elicit information that would be known to people who really are living together as husband and wife. Interviewing officers have been known to ask, for example, who normally gets out of bed first in the morning, what side of the bed the alarm clock is located on, and what brand of toothpaste is used. People in a real relationship and living together would know the answers to such questions right away. Those in a sham marriage, on the other hand, would be likely to react in a way that would be suspicious to an experienced interviewer.

Second, the officer will likely ask the couple what documentary evidence of the marriage relationship they have with them, and then spend some time examining it. The types of evidence will vary from couple to couple. Relevant documents would include any of the following:

1. Birth certificates of children born of the relationship, indicating that the applicant and spouse are the parents.
2. Copies of federal and state tax returns with the "married filing jointly" filing status.
3. Evidence of joint checking, savings, or other accounts or assets (CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement funds, etc.), or joint obligations on loans.
4. An apartment lease or a letter from the landlord indicating that both spouses live at the apartment or copies of rent receipts showing both parties' names.
6. If the couple own a house or condominium, deeds and mortgage and insurance documents showing joint tenancy and obligation.
7. Credit cards showing both spouses' names on the accounts.
8. Letter from an employer showing a change in records to reflect the spouse's new marital status or showing designation of the spouse as the person to be notified in event of accident, sickness, or other emergency.
9. Evidence of life insurance policies where one spouse is designated as the other's beneficiary.
10. Evidence of a medical or health insurance plan that has coverage for the spouse.
11. Evidence of communication between the parties during their relationship, including letters, birthday and holiday cards, telephone records, e-mails, and other correspondences addressed to the parties.
12. A religious marriage certificate if the couple was married in a religious ceremony.
13. Copies of gas, electric, telephone, cable, and other utility bills showing both parties' names (or at least the same mailing address).
14. Evidence of joint ownership of an automobile (title, insurance, registration). (If one spouse owns the car, at least it could be shown that the other is covered as a driver on the insurance policy.)
15. Evidence of vacations and other trips taken together, including airline tickets and hotel bills.
16. Evidence of major purchases made together, such as computers, televisions, major appliances, etc., including any financing documents.
17. Photographs that show both spouses together, and with family and friends. These can be taken at the wedding, at other functions or events, and throughout their relationship.

Occasionally the officer also will ask about the affidavit of support (Form I-864) filed by the US citizen spouse or a joint sponsor. If tax returns have been filed since the original application was submitted, it is a good idea to have them at the interview. Also, it is advisable to have a few recent pay stubs for the financial sponsor, as well as an updated letter from the employer indicating the salary currently earned.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of immigration law, visit one of IIIC's weekly clinics as advertised in the *Irish Reporter* for a free, confidential consultation.

Disclaimer: These articles are published to inform generally, not to advise in individual cases. Areas of law are rapidly changing. US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State regularly amend regulations and alter processing and filing procedures. For legal advice seek the assistance of an IIIC immigration specialist or an immigration lawyer.

IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice



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Telephone (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Join Us for the 15th "Taste of Ireland" Celebration at the Cape Cod Irish Village

Massachusetts has become home to millions of Irishimmigrants throughout its long history and with them came an abundance of traditional Irish dishes and desserts. To celebrate the restaurants that bring this Old Country taste to our tables, please join us at the 15th Annual "Taste of Ireland" event on Sun., Feb. 10.

For a flat entry fee of \$15, attendees will have the opportunity to sample Irish dishes from a wide range of Cape Cod area restaurants. Whether you consider yourself a connoisseur of Irish specialty breads, seafood dishes, comfort food classics, soups, or desserts, you'll have plenty to choose from.

The event begins at 1 p.m., preceded by a free immigration and citizenship advice clinic from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is once again being hosted by the Cape Cod Irish Village in South Yarmouth. Participating restaurants have donated their efforts and all proceeds will benefit the Irish International Immigrant Center.

While the food is the main attraction for most people, the event is really a celebration of Irish culture. "The afternoon will be packed," Ann Marie Cugno of the IIIC says, and will feature live Irish music, dancing, and a wide range of activities for kids. Raffle prizes include items donated by local busi-

nesses and art galleries, and gift certificates to local restaurants. "This is a brilliant occasion for families," Cugno adds, and a "perfect way to get everyone out of the house on a winter Sunday."

Mark your calendar for Feb. 10 for what promises to be a great afternoon of food, music, and craic; maybe think about making a weekend of it by staying at the Cape Cod Irish Village, which is offering special package rates!

For more information on the "Taste of Ireland" event, please contact Ann Marie Cugno at 617-542-7654, Ext. 32, or by sending an e-mail to her at amcugno@iiicenter.org. For bookings and information about accommo-

modation, please contact the Cape Cod Irish Village at 508-771-0100, or visit their website, at capecod-irishvillage.com.

Citizenship Class begins Feb. 7... there's still time to register!

The next class will run for six weeks on Thursdays beginning Feb. 7. Afternoon sessions run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Prepare for the exam; receive assistance with the ten-page US Citizenship application; and ask any questions you might have about the process. To learn more about the class or to register, please call 617-542-7654.

Matters Of Substance

'You don't have to hit to hurt'



Danielle Owen

By DANIELLE OWEN

Many women and men have been referred to me seeking support for depression, anxiety and/or for help with an addiction. Sometimes during sessions we come to realize that a person is depressed, anxious, not sleeping, or is using alcohol or drugs to cope with the stress or anxiety related to their partner's abusive behavior towards them. They may not be believed because their families or friends say "Well, you're an addict/alcoholic; you're just blaming your partner to justify your problem!" Certainly, blaming is used by addicts, but if domestic violence is involved, recovery is especially more difficult when you are anxious and in constant fear. And you don't have to hit to hurt someone. Abuse in

the home or in our close relationships is usually hidden, not just by hiding bruises and such but by other abusive behaviors that can be harder to see.

What does abuse look like? Jane Doe Inc. offers supportive programs and trainings to help us answer this question. They suggest that while there is no typical profile of a domestic violence situation, there are common dynamics that may be present either individually or in combination with each other:

Isolation from family or friends;

Name-calling, put-downs, ridicule, and emotional abuse;

Manipulation of children or other family members;

Hurt or abuse of pets;

Withholding medication or assistance for people with disabilities/elders;

Physical violence, threats of, or acts of homicide;

Painful or forced sex;

Monitoring activity like reading e-mails, texts, Facebook posts;

Financial exploitation by stealing money, hurting property or interfering with work/school;

Jealousy and possessiveness;

These behaviors and experiences are referred to as warning signs or red

flags that someone is in an abusive relationship. Sometimes we believe we deserve to be spoken to this way; other times we are so used to being treated like this, we don't know it's not okay. There are other blocks to getting the help that you need:

If you are a lesbian/gay/transgendered person, you may be afraid to get help because people may learn about your sexual orientation;

If you are physically/mentally challenged or elderly, you may depend on your abuser to care for you. You may not have other people to help you;

If you are a male victim of abuse, you may be ashamed and scared that no one will believe you;

If you are from another country, you may be afraid of being deported.

If you recognize any of the blocks described above or any of the abusive

behavior detailed here, please know there is help, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: SafeLink 1-877-785-2020 or National DV Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE(7233). If you are not sure and still have questions, please call Danielle at the IIIC, in complete confidence and without judgment: 617-542-7654, Ext. 14, for a free consultation and to explore your options. Change is always possible, let us help.

A Message for Irish Carers

IIIC staff are very aware of the pressure that many of our Irish carers are experiencing at the moment in the Greater Boston area. If you are concerned, stressed, or need someone to chat to, please call Danielle Owen at 617-542-7654, Ext 14, or send an e-mail to dowen@iiicenter.org. We are here for you, and want to help as we can.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

Calendar of Events

February 6 th	Free Legal Clinic 100, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston All cases except cases, but several. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.
February 7 th	Citizenship Preparation Course Thursdays 100, 100 Franklin Street, Downtown Boston 1:30 - 3:30 PM For complete details or to register, please call Immigration Advice at (617) 542-7654.
February 10 th	Annual Taste of Ireland Celebration 1:00 PM Cape Cod Irish Village, 622 Main Street, Rte. 28, South Yarmouth, MA For complete details, please call Ann Marie Cugno at (617) 542-7654 ext. 32.
February 11 th	Free Legal Clinic 1:30 PM Green Star Pub, 304 Washington St., Brighton All cases except cases, but several. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.
February 18 th	Free Legal Clinic 100, 100 Franklin St., Downtown Boston All cases except cases, but several. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.
February 26 th	Free Legal Clinic 6:00 PM South Boston Labour Center, 270 West Broadway, South Boston All cases except cases, but several. For complete details, please call (617) 542-7654.

March

GPR Suicide Prevention Workshops

Host Families welcome first Wider Horizons group

April

Home Health Aide and CPR Certification Courses

For more information, please call us at (617) 542-7654 or visit www.iiicenter.org



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BC High’s Mary Madden, math teacher, had a goal: Help my students to excel beyond their expectations

By GREG O'BRIEN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Veteran Boston College High School Principal Stephen Hughes doesn't play favorites at the prestigious all-boys Jesuit prep on Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester, an institution rooted in the 16th century teachings of the Spaniard St. Ignatius Loyola. Unless, of course, Hughes is talking about the best teacher he has encountered in his 30 years at the school.

Hands down, that would be Mary Madden. One of BC High's first female teachers, Madden, a Dorchester native, taught math at all levels for three decades in a character-building environment that, by her own admission, put a far greater focus on getting students into Heaven than into Harvard. So what does math have to do with God? "Math is a divinely created language that unlocks the mysteries of the universe," she says.

Madden did fine by Harvard standards, too. Many of her students are now distinguished doctors, lawyers, politicians, journalists, authors, and professional athletes. But their teacher, now 73 and retired from the classroom since 2006 but carrying on in the school's advancement and alumni office, is even more revered for her legendary perseverance in working with struggling students.

"Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men owe Mary Madden a great debt for not only getting them through high school algebra, but for also teaching them the life lessons of hard work and a belief in oneself," says Hughes, who is seated beside the reserved Madden during a recent interview in a snug conference room. "And because of Mary, these individuals came to know that nothing was impossible for them. She loved them so well that she succeeded in getting them to excel beyond their expectations; she got them to become better students, better human beings than they ever dreamed of being. She never gave them a free pass, but she did whatever it took to get them to be competent in mathematics. She did it with a firm insistence on hard work and belief in their ability."

Madden recently received BC High's distinguished Shields Medal for her exceptional generosity to the school.

"Mary Madden was simply the best classroom teacher at BC High," Hughes declared at the award ceremony, a point of fact at a school where 99 percent of graduating seniors attend a four-year college or university.

That's saying something when you look at the register of BC High grads, and consider the range of instructors who have guided the likes of the late Richard Cardinal Cushing; former State Senate president and former UMass president William Bulger; four-star General and US Army Chief of Staff George W. Casey, Jr.; the best-selling author Dennis Lehane; Olympic gold medalist Eric Vendt; former Boston Bruin head coach Mark Sullivan; Phil Lynch, former CEO of Reuters America; and a spate of NFL, MLB, NBA, and NHL professional athletes.

Mary Madden remains modest about her accomplishments. Coaxing comments from her about her teaching prowess is a bit like trying to squeeze a rock; she is reticent to take a bow, perhaps due to her second-generation Irish heritage. With Madden, it's all about her students.

"I never yelled in the classroom," she says. "I don't think it accomplishes anything other than raising a voice. Exercising a vocal cord is not good communication; building up confidence and self-esteem within a student body is. A good teacher fills gaps. Math can be challenging, edifying, confusing, enlightening, all at the same time. To achieve at math, one must persevere. So I never yelled. I just raised the bar and challenged students to exceed their expectations, offering all the help they might need."

On the art of teaching, she borrows from Albert



'A good teacher fills gaps. Math can be challenging, edifying, confusing, enlightening, all at the same time. To achieve at math, one must persevere. So I never yelled. I just raised the bar and challenged students to exceed their expectations, offering all the help they might need.'
— MARY MADDEN

Einstein, who once observed, "I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

Throughout her teaching career, Madden focused on improving classroom conditions in which her students could learn. She had a fine role model in her father, Edward, who taught math, Greek, and Latin at BC High when the school was located in the South End. A graduate of Suffolk Law School, the elder Madden, son of Irish immigrants, did legal analysis for the federal government later in life.

"My dad cared deeply about his work," says Mary. "He was an unbelievably wonderful man who led by example and held us all to high standards. He didn't have to be strict. Everyone around him, from family to students, just knew better."

One of seven children, Madden was raised on working-

class Gallivan Boulevard in St. Brendan's Parish. Her mother, Mary (McIsaac), was a homemaker and the disciplinarian of the family. "She was a loving woman, but you just didn't cross her."

The Madden children learned at an early age to have a passion for life, a passion to help others. Not surprisingly, five of the siblings became teachers. Growing up in Dorchester refined their street smarts, self-assurance, and the gut faith they needed to endure life's challenges. And so with vigor, Mary took to the softball fields and basketball courts, a star in a day when school girls weren't supposed to play sports. She was a rugged forward on the Cardinal Cushing High School basketball team, and a pitcher on St. Brendan's CYO fast-pitch softball team that won a state championship.

Years later, Madden was still striking out the sides with a blistering fastball flung from an arm that seemed to rear back to the sky before firing. Steve Hughes watched in awe. "In her 50s, Mary still had great stuff," he recalls. "In softball pickup games behind the school, she would shut down the baseball coach, basketball coach, and football coach, one two three. It was a humbling experience for them. She also would light it up when pitching to some of her students. Zip, zip, zip. It's no wonder that no one crossed her."

Madden just smiles as Hughes retells the story. "BC High," she says, "is like no other school. I can't imagine myself any other place."

For a while she was. After graduating from Emmanuel College in Boston with a teaching degree, she taught for three years in the Hull public school system. In 1976, she answered a call from then BC High president Fr. Ray Callahan. "I need a math teacher," Callahan said. "And I've heard you're a good one." In short order, Madden was off to Morrissey Boulevard.

"What is so unique about Mary is her deep and profound love for her students," say Hughes, who has served as principal for 11 years and taught at the school before that. "Her love never got in the way of teaching; it enhanced her teaching."

"Mary was the kind of teacher that all of us wanted to be," adds Charlie Drane, the school's academic vice principal. "Her standards were so high, she was so rigorous, and yet she was so kind and caring. She had an enormous and lasting impact on all of the teachers here."

Madden blushes at such accolades, but acknowledges her insistence on excellence. "I never let my students give up," she says. "No matter what the circumstances."

Often Madden visited her students at home or in the hospital to offer tutoring and to let them know they were an integral part of the BC High family. Such reinforcement is infectious, she conceded. The school calls it recognition, respect, and affection. Recognition in that the school's graduates are leaders; respect in that the BC High program instills soundness of mind, spirit and body; and mutual affection that leads to life-long bonds. Her former students still call on her often.

On this cold day in January, Madden clearly enjoys reflecting on her remarkable career at BC High, but something is missing. "I miss teaching," she says. "I miss the students in the classroom. I've been blessed, and am forever grateful for that."

Indeed she has been set apart, admiring colleagues and former students would be quick to note. For Mary Madden, the woman who taught math with the reverence of scripture, life adds up in all ways.

Greg O'Brien, a regular contributor to the Boston Irish Reporter, is president of Stony Brook Group, a publishing and political/communications strategy company based on Cape Cod. He is the author/editor of several books, and contributes to regional and national publications.

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Hollywood disrupts a rural Kerry village in Lyric Stage's 'Stones In His Pockets'

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

This month, Lyric Stage Company of Boston is presenting "Stones In His Pockets," the poignant but very funny tale of what happens when a movie crew descends upon a village in County Kerry.

As the story unfolds, two local guys, Charlie and Jake, secure jobs as extras in the movie but soon find the film business

is far from the glittering world they expected. Ultimately, they decide to write a film of their own to tell what actually happens to a small town and its people when Hollywood takes over.

Two actors (Daniel Berger Jones and Phil Tayler) portray more than a dozen eccentric characters in the play, which ran for three years in London and received the coveted

Olivier Award as the Best New Comedy of 2001.

Courtney O'Connor is directing the production at Lyric. Describing herself as "an Irish mutt," she has roots stretching from Tipperary to Derry, Donegal, Carlow, and beyond.

The Pennsylvania native originally came to Boston to study for her master's degree at Emerson. She fell in love with the city, stayed, and

Wespoke recently about her work. Here's an edited look at our conversation.

BIR: Has theater always been a part of your life?

CO: I started going to the theater when I was young. I remember the first kind of big show I went to see was "Annie" and just like every other little girl, it captured my imagination . . . I was (Continued on page 12)



Courtney O'Connor directs the comedy "Stones In His Pockets"

What are you going to do with your life? 'I'm going to play music,' said Colm Gannon

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There was never any doubt, really, that Colm Gannon would play music – nor any doubt as to what kind of music, nor which instrument he would use to play it. Not with a father who is an accomplished Irish accordion player, and an older brother following suit.



Colm Gannon: "There'd be conversations around the kitchen table where I'd be asked,

But then, Gannon hardly needed any nudging to take up the box. Quite the opposite.

"When I was 7, I'd be begging Dad to play the accordion – I'd practically chase him down until he would," recalls Gannon, who grew up in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. "From a young age, I just knew it was something I'd get into. There'd be conversations around the kitchen table where I'd be asked, 'So, what are you going to do with your life?' and I had the reply all ready: 'I'm just going to play music.'"

Gannon's youthful enthusiasm for his family music tradition has proven to be long-lasting and fully engaging, one that led him to relocate to his ancestral Connemara and to pursue a career that has included a stint in "Riverdance" and a series of recordings – the most recent being "The Rights of Man," released this past fall.

Early last month, Gannon returned to the Boston area to visit family and friends and play a few gigs, including a performance at

The Burren "Backroom" series in Somerville, house concerts in Medford and Worcester, and a ceilí in Braintree. The home-

coming was an opportunity for Gannon, who was married last June, to reflect a little on his inextricably linked life and music.

"It's definitely meant a lot to be able to carry on this tradition which has been so important to my family," says Gannon. "I got to visit Ireland frequently and learn about the tradition there, but growing up in Boston, where there is such a hunger for the music, was ideal. There's my Dad's and my brother's influence, of course, but my mother took me out to sessions and concerts around town, and I got to meet so many people who, like me, felt a strong connection to Irish music."

Gannon's parents were both Connemara natives: John, a self-taught box player from Droim, and Gerry, from Tuirin. John immigrated to the US in 1959, and it would be more than 20 years before he picked up the instrument again – the arrival of Colm's older brother, Sean, and then Colm prompted John to revisit his music so he could hand it off to the next generation. If John wasn't playing the box himself, he would have his boys listening to recordings of estimable musicians like Seanin Phat Mylea McDonough, Kevin Coyne, Finbarr Dwyer, Joe Burke, and Martin McMahon.

Not only did John successfully pass on the music, and to great effect (Sean is universally (Continued on page 12)

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By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

While it may have only 28, or sometimes 29, days, February (along with the early part of March) can seem like the longest month: closer to spring than January, but often with cold, wintry weather and days that gradually but oh-so-slowly get longer. Fortunately, the Greater Boston area has plenty of Irish and Celtic music events this period to brighten spirits. Here's a sampling:

- Boston College's Gaelic Roots series [bc.edu/gaelicroots] will present the trio of **Kathleen Conneely**, **Dan Gurney** and **Eamon O'Leary** on Feb. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gasson Hall Irish Room. Conneely is a widely respected musician and teacher who has often appeared at BC, and last fall released her

As days get longer, the music heats up

Car" – it hit no. 1 on the Irish iTunes charts – and its accompanying humorous video. Since then, Og has achieved success with his pop-driven, romance-themed singles "Promises We Held," "The Answer," "Dreaming," and most recently "You're So True," which reached the Irish charts top 20 and accumulated more than 40,000 YouTube views in a short time.

- Three events being organized by notloB Parlour Concerts over the next few weeks showcase a blending of Celtic music with other folk music influences. On Feb. 18, sisters **Brittany and Natalie Haas** team with Lily

of Strings, among others. More recently, she played fiddle on Steve Martin's Grammy Award-winning CD "The Row" and appeared with his band on "David Letterman" and "Saturday Night Live."

Fiddler-singer-songwriter Henley, a native of Boston, has drawn praise for the passion and diversity in her music, a result of time spent in more than 20 places around the world – from Chicago to Cape Breton to Israel to Romania, and elsewhere. Zakula, a multi-instrumentalist grounded in traditional Appalachian music, has likewise integrated a contemporary sensibility in his playing and songwriting.

Also performing at the February 18 concert will be guitarist **Rene Del Fiero**, who was influenced early on by the blues

and began exploring other genres as well. He has performed and/or toured with such acts as Santana, Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean and Berrington Levy.

- The Celtic quartet **Fellswater** will perform on Feb. 23 at the Loring-Greenhough House in Jamaica Plain. Based in Massachusetts, the band plays traditional tunes as well as modern compositions that reflect the heritage of Scotland, Ireland, Brittany, and Canada. Fellswater, whose past appearances include BCMFest, the Blackstone River Theatre and the New Hampshire Highland Games, is comprised of **Betsy Ketudat** (fiddle), **Jim MacConduibh** (guitar, bouzouki), **Sarah MacConduibh** (flute, whistle) and **Matthew Phelps** (bagpipes). (Continued on page 13)

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What are you going to do with your life?

(Continued from page 9) acknowledged as one of Boston's best Irish accordionists), but he wound up almost as musically active as his sons, recording two albums – “Melodeon,” which includes two duet tracks with Sean and Colm, and “Trasna Na dTonnta,” a duet album with Colm that also features a pair of songs sung by John's sister Maureen Creighan (now deceased) – and regularly co-hosting a popular session with Sean at The Burren.

Exposed as Colm was to the different styles of Irish music – especially in and around Boston, where he would play with notables like Tina Lech, Jimmy Noonan, Frankie McDonagh, Brendan Bulger, and Larry Reynolds – he got a thorough grounding in that of Connemara. “The most distinctive thing about the Connemara style,” he explains, “is that it has this great sense of rhythm – which it gets from sean nos dance – and, at the same time, sweet melodic variations. This came about because dancers would tend to ask for the same tunes as accompaniment, so putting in their own variations was a way for the musi-

cians to keep things interesting for themselves.” By the mid-1990s, Gannon (by then with an All-Ireland title under his belt), Lech and fiddler Jesse Smith were playing a lot of gigs, not just in Boston but elsewhere. Ireland seemed a natural place to expand musical vistas, and in 1998 he and Smith moved to Ennis, where they stayed for a couple of years. Then Gannon got one of those bona fide golden opportunities: an invitation to join “Riverdance.” He was a little unsure about taking the plunge at first – “I didn't want to just do the same tunes over and over again” – but decided it was too good to pass up. As a still young, up-and-coming musician, he found the experience eye-opening. Four years in the show “gave me an insight into the big-scale production side of things,” says Gannon, and he was quite impressed with the scale of the operation, and the task of getting everything organized in a different city every week. “It was different than what I was used to,” he says. “In fact, sometimes I'd hear a complaint about having to ride the bus for



four or five hours to the next destination, and I'd be thinking, 'I used to have to drive to gigs for four or five hours packed into a little car.' Definitely gives you some perspective.” When his run with “Riverdance” was over, Gannon happily settled in his father's old stomping grounds of Droim, and into a less peripatetic musical life. Not that he hasn't kept busy with gigs, touring and – in addition to finishing a degree in traditional music performance at the University of Limerick – appearing on a host of recordings,

especially including his own. For “The Rights of Man,” Gannon is joined on most tracks by two esteemed former De Dannan members, pioneering bouzouki player Alec Finn and bodhran master Johnny “Ringo” McDonough, as well as his long-time accomplice, guitarist/pianist John Blake. Finn's characteristic modal, contrapuntal style, in particular, is perfectly suited to Gannon (as it is to most everyone Finn plays with), forming a latticework of rhythm and harmony around the drive and exuberance of

the accordion – perhaps to no better effect than on the “Cronin's Reel/Tim Maloney's” set. McDonough and Blake certainly have their moments as well, such as their typically tasteful backing in the “Sporting Nell/Drowsy Maggie” medley. The ensemble pieces are wholly enjoyable, and so are Gannon's solo tracks, notably the jigs “Banish Misfortune/Morrison's.” This set, along with the tunes “Páidin O'Rafferty's” and “Green Grow the Rushes,” among others, demonstrates Gannon's enviable store of settings and variations sure to catch the ear of anyone familiar with such well-known staples of session and ceilí. Gannon also shows the Connemara predilection for, as he puts it, “songs that make nice tunes when the words are stripped away”: For instance, the air “Amhrán na Trá Báine” (written, he notes, by a Connemara woman near his part of Boston) is marked by expressive, sean nos-like ornamentations and chords that tend more toward tenor than bass. As Gannon notes, most of the tunes on “Rights of

Man” are taken from recordings of various musicians whose influence goes clear back to his youth. And these aren't simply LPs or cassettes, mind you, but reel-to-reel tapes, 78s and even cylinder recordings. “One of Johnny's Own,” for instance, came from a field recording that Dublin fiddler James Kelly made of Chicagoan Johnny McGreevy, while the source of “The Green Groves of Erin” was a 78 of Westmeath concertina player William Mullally, and a 78 of Sligo's James “Lad” O'Beirne provided Gannon with “The New-castle Hornpipe.” It's this attention to detail, and to tradition and legacy, that deepens one's appreciation for Gannon and his music. Speaking of legacy: While neither John nor Sean is on this album, Colm's wife Kelly plays concertina on the reel set “The Merry Merchant/ Miss McDonald's/ Drag Her Around the Road.” One might surmise this portends a further proliferation of the Gannon family's presence in the Irish music tradition.



BCMfest (Boston's Celtic Music Fest) celebrated its first decade of showcasing Boston's Celtic music, song and dance on January 11 and 12 at venues in Harvard Square, beginning with a sold-out Friday evening concert in Club Passim that featured some of the area's fine young Celtic musicians/composers. Festival-goers also enjoyed Irish, Scottish and Cape Breton social dancing at the Boston Urban Ceilidh, which included performances by the O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance.

Saturday's “DayFest” program began in Club Passim with entertainment aimed at children and families. The afternoon was full of concerts and participatory events at Passim and nearby First Parish Church of Cambridge. The 2013 festival culminated with the Saturday evening finale concert in First Parish Church that included a tribute to Larry Reynolds by faculty, students and friends of the local Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann music school that Reynolds co-founded.

For more on BCMfest, see passim.org/bcmfest or e-mail bcmfest@passim.org



“A Celtic Sojourn” host Brian O'Donovan welcomes the audience to the BCMfest finale concert.



Joey Abarta performs during “DayFest” at the 10th BCMfest last month.



The BCMfest 2013 finale concert featured a tribute to Larry Reynolds by faculty, students and friends of the Boston Comhaltas music school.



The O'Shea-Chaplin Academy of Irish Dance at BCMfest's Boston Urban Ceilidh. Sean Smith photos

Hollywood disrupts a rural Kerry village

(Continued from page 9) very fortunate growing up that I went to see a lot of shows at the Walnut Street Theater (in Philadelphia). We had a family friend who was the music director there, and whenever a show would come in, he would send my grandmother and my uncle to go see it. When we he found out I was interested, he started including tickets for me.

BIR: People are still talking about “Nicholas Nickleby,” which was a spectacular effort, with 24

actors playing 150 roles. **CO:** It was a production unlike anything that I'd ever worked on before. To me, one of the most amazing things was that every single person involved with it felt the exact same way – that this was one of those unique and special experiences – and they just poured themselves, heart and soul, into it. You could not have asked for a better group of people to come together to work on it.

BIR: And now you go from a huge cast down to

just two actors playing all the roles. **CO:** It's a little bit of a different experience. Two actors, 15 characters, and I think about 8 or 9 different accents. **BIR:** Marie Jones, the playwright, began her career in Belfast working as an actress. Does that experience give her writing a special edge for an actor? **CO:** I think it gives her a different perspective. Certainly we have playwrights who have never acted, never set foot on

stage in their lives, but who understand how an actor thinks and how an actor moves brilliantly. But I think it does give her a sense of what is possible. There are moments when the actors switch characters for just one line and then switch right back. Someone who's not an actor may hesitate to write that. **BIR:** Jones is also known for presenting social and moral issues in a way that doesn't force a message as much as allow the audience discover it.



Daniel Berger-Jones



Phil Tayler

CO: I think that's absolutely true. This piece has got so many different layers – it's examining the film industry, it's examining the effect on the town, it's examining societal issues, financial issues, and how (the filming) literally rips apart the fabric of some of these relationships. But at the same time, you're laughing... It feels very much, to me, like the Irish way of telling a story. You have to go to the darker place to tell it, but you're going to add that laughter and humor, because that's how you have the strength to continue.

BIR: Very Irish, indeed. **CO:** When I was in Ireland years and years ago, you would go to town after town, and (they'd say), “Here's where we were invaded this time, and here's where we were invaded that time”... What astonished me was the resilience of the Irish. At the end of the play, it's that sense of resilience that Charlie and Jake have. The idea that you carry what happened with you. You carry the heartache with you. But you move forward. And you move in a positive direction. They don't know whether or not their film will get made, but they

choose to believe that it will. And they choose to believe that telling the story of everyone is as important as telling the story of the movie stars – that the individual will have just as much of an effect on the fabric as the larger person. **BIR:** Your time in Ireland was memorable? **CO:** For the entire time, from the moment our plane landed in Ireland – and I did not expect this – we got off the plane, started walking, started talking, started meeting people, and it was this complete, unexpected sense of “I am home.” People spoke the way I spoke, they thought the way I thought, they told a story the way I told a story, although theirs was more charming (laughing). It just really surprised me how much I immediately felt I was finally home. And I realized that something was missing that I hadn't known was missing before.

R. J. Donovan is publisher of OnStageBoston.com. *** “Stones In His Pockets,” Feb. 15 - March 16, Lyric Stage Company of Boston, 140 Clarendon Street in Boston. Tickets: 617-585-5678 or lyricstage.com.

As days get longer, the music heats up

Concerts galore mark the February calendar

(Continued from page 9)

Also at Loring-Greenough will be the fiddle-banjo duo of **Bronwyn Keith-Hynes and Catherine Bowness**, on March 9. Keith-Hynes, who recently performed at the 10th BCMfest, has traversed the Irish, Cape Breton, and American traditional music scenes under the tutelage of such musicians as Beth Telford, Jerry Holland, Cleek Schrey, Matt Glaser, John McGann and Darol Anger. The winner of numerous Irish and Scottish-style fiddle competitions, Keith-Hynes is part of the group Atlantic Seaways, a collaboration of young traditional American and Scottish musicians.

Bowness, from New Zealand, studied banjo with Tony Trischka, Alan Munde and Bill Evans and at age 15 won the Uncle Dave Macon banjo competition in Tennessee. She has toured with several acts and, in 2010, she recorded her debut album, “Village Green,” which features original compositions and collaborations.

In addition to the concert, Keith-Hynes and Bowness will offer separate-admission workshops on Irish fiddle and bluegrass banjo. For more details on this and other notloB events, go

to sites.google.com/site/notlobmusic.

The Burren's “Backroom” series will sponsor two shows in the upcoming weeks. On Feb. 27, the series welcomes **Sean Tyrrell** – celebrated as singer, songwriter, storyteller, commentator, poet and gadfly – and opening act **The Deadstring Ensemble**. A native of Galway whose career spans more than four decades, Tyrrell has crafted his art through exposure to the experiences of different cultures, musical genres and literary heritage. In addition to his well-received solo albums of his own candid, forthright – even pugilistic -- songs as well as traditional material, he has taken part in such musical projects as “Songs of Peace,” commemorating the life and work of Francis Ledwidge, who died in the First World War, and “A Necklace of Wrens,” a documentary on the life and poetry of Michael Hartnet.

The Deadstring Ensemble performs original acoustic music that encompasses Irish, Appalachian, bluegrass, folk-rock and early music influences, led by guitarist-mandolinist **Flynn Cohen** with **Matt Heaton** (guitar, bouzouki, mandolin) and **Danny Noveck** (guitar, fiddle)



Irish singer-songwriter Sean Tyrrell, along with local band The Deadstring Ensemble, play at The Burren “Backroom” series later this month. Also at The Burren this month is young, up-and-coming US-born Irish singer Sean Óg.

For tickets and other details, see brownpapertickets.com/event/320203.

March 7 will see a rare appearance of **Sliabh Notes**, a trio of distinguished musicians who have each cultivated a following throughout, and beyond, their native Ireland. Sliabh -- pronounced “Sleeve” -- Notes is fiddler Matt Cranitch

(who was a member of another celebrated trio, Na Fili), accordionist Dónal Murphy (a founder of Four Men and a Dog) and guitarist-vocalist Tommy O'Sullivan, who focus on the storied music tradition of the Sliabh Luachra

region of Ireland that is centered around Limerick, Cork and Kerry. The band has recorded three albums; Irish Music Review hailed their 2008 CD, “Along Blackwater's Banks,” as “scintillating” and “unquestionably, the



strongest yet.” For tickets, see brownpapertickets.com/event/320214.



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CD Review/ Sean Smith

By SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Stevie Dunne, “Banjo” • The latest rebuttal to banjo jokes (along with, say, Enda Scahill, Darren Maloney, Eamonn Coyne, Angelina Carberry and Pauline Conneely, to name a few), Dunne, a Lough native now living in Belfast, actually started off as a rhythm guitarist inclined more to songs than tunes, but when he began picking out melodies his uncle John steered him to what would be his instrument of destiny. Inspired by the likes of Cathal Hayden, Dunne shows absolute mastery on reels, jigs, hornpipes, and everything else, nailing



all those triplets and getting maximum effect out of each note.

On “Banjo,” the follow-up to his 2010 debut release “About Time,” Dunne surrounds himself with a most impressive cast of backing musicians that includes guitarist Arty McGlynn, accordionist David Munnelly, fiddler Stephen Hayden and two members of Beoga, bassist Sean Og Graham, and bodhran/percussionist Eamon Murray. Dunne is quite obviously out in

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER


front on all the tracks (with the exception of a song “Ye Rambling Boys of Pleasure,” lovingly voiced by Tracy Ryan, yet a somewhat curious addition), but the ensemble arrangements give the sets some additional vim.

Witness the rhythmic overlays on the “I’m Waiting for You/Thady Casey’s Fancy/O’Rourke’s” reel medley, for example, or the one-two punch of Murray and McGlynn on the jigs “Down the Back Lane/Only for Barney/Johnny O’Leary’s”; there’s a pleasing build and pace in a more leisurely set of contemporary reels that starts with Dublin piper’s Darach de Brun’s “Maple Leaf” and leads into Breton flutist Sylvain Barou’s “The Silver” before culminating in a Dunne original, “Finian’s Arrival,” featuring some engaging guitar and bouzouki by Michael McGague that, along with Graham’s bass, conjures up a jazzy feel. And the relish with which Dunne and crew invest the jig set “The Humours of Ballyloughlin/Lark on the Strand” is joyously palpable.

By the time the final track ends—a medley that kicks off with the glorious syncopated jig “Haley’s Favorite” and closes out with a fun bit of byplay between Dunne and Hayden on “The Chicken Reel”—you’ll be thanking Dunne’s uncle for his wisdom.

Mary Courtney & Morning Star, “Live from the 33rd County” • A County Kerry native, Courtney has been part of the New York City Irish scene for a few decades now, as a soloist and occasional collaborator with Black 47, among others, and as a member of the trio Morning Star, which she formed in 1982. Courtney’s deep, mellifluous voice is a marked

Worldwide at www.bostonirish.com



contrast to that of most female Irish singers, lending a certain gravitas to the songs she sings, most of which speak to the legacy of Ireland’s land and people.

On this album, the repertoire runs from the traditional and familiar (“The Lark in the Morning,” “Wild Mountain Thyme,” “The Bold Fenian Men,” Tommy Makem’s “Four Green Fields”) to contemporary works: The Saw Doctors’ anthemic “Green and Red of Mayo”; Danny Hannon’s “Mandela,” which sets Ireland’s tragic history in a post-Cold War/ apartheid context; and Mazz O’Flaherty’s “I Will Stand Upon This Land.” If the overall effect is rather solemn, Courtney does inject a bit of whimsy into the proceedings with a cover of the 1969 Peter Sarstedt hit “Where Do You Go to My Lovely” (also known as “The Gin and Tonic Song”).

But this is a trio, after all, and a very good one at that, thanks to the presence of four-time All-Ireland accordionist John Redmond and tenor banjo player Donie Ryan. They get a very justified turn in the spotlight on the jig “The Orphan” that follows “Lark in the Morning,” plus a couple of tune sets (“The Flowing Tide Set” and “Sheila Coyle’s/The Floggin’ Sporting Paddy”), with Courtney supplying rhythm on guitar or bodhran. Redmond and Ryan do equally well accompanying the songs—Redmond even lends a Paris-in-springtime touch to “Where Do You Go to My Lovely?”

If one might quibble with some of the song choices (how much do we really need another recording of “Wild Mountain Thyme?”), the performance of Courtney, Redmond and Ryan makes for a dignified, solid effort.

Hanz Araki & Kathryn Claire, “A Winter Solstice Celebration” and “As I Roved Out: Songs of Spring” • Araki and Claire are the leaders of the Pacific Northwest-based Celtic Conspiracy, which gathers folk songs and tunes for thematic concerts and recordings, as suggested by the titles of these two CDs (their two other works are “Songs of Love and Murder” and “The Emigrant’s Song: The Laborer’s Lament”). Most of the material will be familiar enough to anyone with a moderate interest in traditional music: kind of a Revels-lite approach, if you will, centering on Araki’s flute, whistle and bodhran and Claire’s fiddle and guitar as well as their solo or combined vocals, with some occasional backing guitar, percussion, piano and vocals. The musicianship is fine enough,



Araki’s in particular, the singing quite ingratiating overall (“Rosemary Fair,” “Country Life” and “Pleasant and Delightful” on “As I Roved Out”; “Remember O Thou Man,” “Coventry Carol,” “Wexford Carol” on “Winter Solstice”), but—to my ears, anyway—diminished somewhat by overuse of percussive instruments, “The Seven Joys of Mary” being a prime example.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION FROM PAGE 17



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Adams accuser Price dies at 61; figure in tapes case

(Continued from page 1)

Boston College commissioned the collection of such interviews with veterans of Northern Ireland’s paramilitary warfare on condition their contents be kept secret until each interviewee’s death. Early last year, Federal Judge William Young ordered the university to turn over the tapes to the police. Then, in October, the US Supreme Court blocked the handover pending resolution of a string of other connected lawsuits and legal challenges in lower US courts. Her death could trigger a new wave of legal petitions on both sides, with one already on the federal docket.

[The Associated Press reported that on Jan. 28, lawyers for Boston College filed a motion with the First US Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston noting that Price’s demise means that she can no longer be the subject of any prosecution by police in Northern Ireland. BC is also asking that its own appeal of Young’s ruling be dismissed as moot because of Price’s death, the AP story said.]

In a statement about the filing, BC spokesman Jack Dunn said Price’s death “should bring a close to the pending case regarding the subpoenas for the confidential oral history materials from the Belfast Project.” Dunn said the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal Matters invoked by the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom “provides that the treaty does not pertain to matters in which the government anticipates that no prosecution will take place. Given that Dolours Price has died, the university believes that the case should be dismissed,” Dunn said.

[Christina DiIorio-Sterling, a spokeswoman for US Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz, declined to comment to the AP. She said prosecutors plan to file a response with the court.]

On news of Price’s death, Ed Moloney, the Irish journalist who oversaw collection of the taped testimonies, and Anthony McIntyre, the former IRA convict who actually conducted the interviews

from 2001 to 2006, lauded Price as “both a friend and a valued participant in the Belfast Project.” They blamed the police’s pursuit of her testimony for hastening her death, and vowed that their own legal fight to prevent police from receiving any tapes from the Boston College archive would continue “with renewed vigor.”

“Throughout the last two years of our fight to prevent her interviews being handed over to the police in Belfast, our greatest fear was always for the health and well being of Dolours,” Moloney and McIntyre said in a statement. “Now that she is no longer with us, perhaps those who initiated this legal case can take some time to reflect upon the consequences of their action.”

Price joined the IRA as a Belfast teenager, in part because her father, Albert, was a senior IRA figure. She led a 10-member IRA unit that planted four car bombs in central London on March 8, 1973, including outside the Old Bailey criminal courthouse and Scotland Yard police headquarters. Two detonated, wounding more than 200 people.

After the Provisional IRA cease-fire of 1997 paved the way for Adams’s Sinn Féin party to enter a new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland, Price denounced Adams as a hypocrite who had betrayed the cause of forcing Northern Ireland into the Irish Republic.

And in a 2012 interview with Britain’s *Sunday Telegraph*, Price accused Adams of sanctioning the 1973 bomb attacks during a Belfast IRA meeting. “Adams started talking and said it was a big, dangerous operation. He said: ‘This could be a hanging job.’ He said: ‘If anyone doesn’t want to go [to London], they should up and leave now through the back door at 10-minute intervals.’ The ones that were left were the ones that went. I was left organizing it, to be the OC (officer commanding) of the whole shebang,” Price was quoted as saying.

When asked later about Price’s criticisms, Adams said he had “no concerns about any of those issues because they are not true.”

Dolours married the Belfast actor Stephen Rea in 1983, and they had two sons, but he divorced her in 2003.

February 2013

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Traveling People

Connemara’s charming Lough Inagh: More home than hotel



Lough Inagh, left, across from Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Connemara, looks a bit otherworldly as the clouds roll away after a midmorning storm. The lake and the hotel are well known by fishermen in Ireland, who congregate there when fishing season is in full swing. Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel in Connemara recently won its second consecutive Gold Star as Ireland’s best country house. The small, comfortable hotel is in the Inagh Valley in Co. Galway.



Judy Enright photos

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Would I ever steer you wrong about Ireland and all things Irish? No, I never, ever would.

So, I love it when I mention my favorite tourist attractions and accommodations and others agree. For instance, Ireland’s hospitality industry magazine, Hotel and Catering Review, recently chose my favorite hotel – Lough Inagh Lodge in Connemara – as the best country house for 2012. This was the second consecutive year that Lough Inagh won the Gold Medal, the top award. They were also runner-up another year.

Lough Inagh is simply wonderful and more like a home than a hotel. Everyone who works there is welcoming and charming and they make you feel as though you are the only guest who ever checked in.

The hotel’s 12 bedrooms – all ensuite – are spotlessly clean, large, and comfortable. The bathrooms are currently being updated to include walk-in showers – a real bonus for older folks who don’t like climbing over the edge of a wet bathtub to get out of the shower.

Lough Inagh’s meals are delicious and sourced locally. You can eat in the cozy bar or elegant dining room. Be sure to try my favorite appetizer – raw oysters served with a Guinness shot.

I make a point to include Lough Inagh in my Ireland

plans every time I go and have taken friends and family members there. All have raved about the hotel, staff, food, ambience, and the magnificent setting in the unspoiled, undeveloped Inagh Valley.

Because the hotel is small, residents often interact if they are so inclined and I’ve made several close friends there over the years. One couple is from Hampshire, England, and we meet up at Lough Inagh whenever we can. We have become such good friends that the wife knitted gifts for my newest grandson and sent them from England to Ohio.

There’s a lot to do in the Inagh Valley. You can walk, hike, fish, cycle, or choose from many other outdoor activities. The hotel is among a select group of grand houses in Great Fishing Houses of Ireland (irelandflyfishing.com) and is noted for a fishery that offers outstanding salmon fishing.

One guest wrote this of Lough Inagh: “In the most remote hotel of Connemara, surrounded by a landscape all lovers of the Very Ireland dream about, the luxury of a marvelous manor house together with the warmth and simplicity of a village pub in the rare old times that seem eternal there.”

Sarah Grennan, editor of Hotel & Catering Review, said, “Our Gold Medal Jury can’t help but fall in love with Lough Inagh Lodge each time they

visit. This cozy country house offers an idyllic base to escape from the rat race, with a charming team led by owner Maire O’Connor and general manager Dominic O’Morain, who impress with their naturally warm and friendly hospitality. We crowned Lough Inagh Ireland’s Best Country House in 2011 and we were so awed when we visited again this summer that we had to return the Gold Medal for a second successive year.”

For details, see the website: loughinaghlodgehotel.ie

CONNEMARA BLUE
While you’re in Connemara, do stop by Connemara Blue, Market Square, Clifden, to see the beautiful work done by Ben Crow in his gallery there.

I discovered Ben’s fused glasswork last fall while walking down the street to my favorite Clifden restaurant – Mitchell’s Seafood, also on Market Street. I was struck by his window display of brightly colored glass coasters, each adorned with a lamb. Of course, I had to bring those coasters home. Ben and his wife, Pauline, carefully packed my purchases and, believe it or not, all arrived home in my suitcase in good shape – without packed inside shoes.

It was interesting to hear that Ben worked for 30 years in the UK police service, primarily in inner city Birmingham, before moving to Connemara. “Just being here reawak-

ened my long-submerged artistic feelings,” he said.

The shop is open seven days a week, Ben added, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. See his work at connemarablue.com and also on Facebook at facebook.com/connemarablueglass.

After visiting Ben’s gallery and having a bite to eat at Mitchell’s, I keep walking down Market Street and stopped at Derval Joyce, a small shop with the most interesting cards and gifts. I also make a point to visit the Clifden Book Shop on Main Street, where I also find outstanding cards and books on local topics.

MORE FAVORITES
I admit it. I love Aer Lingus – for so many reasons. There are, of course, many other airlines that fly to Ireland but I always choose Aer Lingus because they fly direct from Boston to Shannon (another favorite), have an amazing safety record, and a website that’s thorough and extremely easy to navigate.

I have flown back and forth with Aer Lingus many times but never had a female pilot until last October. The trip was seamless and the flight as smooth as silk and I decided to find out more about Aer Lingus’s pilots. Rosemarie Curran from Aer Lingus responded to my query, saying, “We are very proud of our history! Grainne Cronin was the first Aer Lingus pilot to be recruited, in 1977. In 1978 and 1979, two more female pilots joined Aer Lingus, making it three female pilots for the next 10 years. Aer Lingus was the second airline in Europe, after SAS, to introduce female pilots.”

Rosemarie added that there are now 40 female pilots – 17 captains, 23 first officers, and two cadet pilots in training. All told, Aer Lingus employs 476 pilots. I mentioned earlier that Shannon is my favorite airport. You can often fly Boston-Dublin more easily but there’s something so “Ireland” about Shannon: It’s small, comfortable, friendly, and it’s fast

and easy to collect your luggage there (free carts are available.) Rental car counters are close by in the arrivals hall and there’s a Londis shop there, too (for that much-needed cup of coffee after the dawn arrival.) Stepping outside and breathing in the crisp, early morning Co. Clare air says “Ireland” to me somehow. Even in April, there’s still a refreshing nip in the air.

And, the roads leading to wherever you’re heading are not Dublin’s clogged commuter arteries, but country roads that make it so much easier to acclimate to driving on “the wrong side” of the road.

And, here’s a message to Aer Lingus, which appears to be cutting back on flights into Shannon, which serves the magnificent West! Please never cut Shannon out of your Aer Lingus loop. The economy of the West needs Shannon and some of us weary travelers also need Shannon to make our voyage that much more pleasant.

Another favorite, while we’re at it, is Dooley car rentals. I have been hiring cars from Dooley for at least five years and have never, ever had any kind of problem. Cars are new and well maintained (I always ask for a Skoda) and the staff is friendly and accommodating. There might be cheaper rates elsewhere, but I trust the quality of Dooley cars and have never been disappointed. I collect my lovely Skoda at Shannon and enjoy it for the duration of my stay.

PROPERTY PRICES
We hear that property prices here in the US are turning around but is it the same in Ireland? In *The Irish Times* on Dec. 26, we read about Bellingham Castle, a 17th Century castle (now a 21-room hotel) outside Dundalk, Co. Louth, that recently sold for 900,000 euro. On 17 acres with fishing rights on the River Glyde, the castle went on the market in 2008 for 6.75 million euro! The buyers – the Corscaddens, who also own Cabra Castle in Co. Cavan – got quite a deal,

didn’t they?

Bellingham is currently undergoing a four-million euro refurbishment, the story said, and is expected to re-open this July as a 22-bedroom four-star boutique hotel. The family hopes to add 40 more bedrooms within the next four years. The Corscadden family also runs Ballyseede Castle in Co. Kerry. A popular wedding venue, Bellingham, which is about halfway between Dublin and Belfast, already has three marriage events booked this summer, beginning in August.

TRAVEL PLANS
Unless you’ve lived under a rock in the back of beyond, you have probably heard about Tourism Ireland’s marketing initiative, “The Gathering,” designed to boost visitor numbers in 2013. More than 2,500 events, including large festivals and a new show from the makers of Riverdance, will be organized throughout 2013.

The Gathering is probably as good a reason as any to visit Ireland but if the planned events don’t convince you, how about the news that as many as 2.5-million lambs will be born on 30,000 sheep farms across the Republic over the next three months? Is there anything cuter than a green field full of white frolicking lambs? Spring is a wonderful time to visit Ireland – but then so is summer, fall and winter.

If you’re lucky enough to be in Co. Clare at the end of this month, be sure to visit Doolin for The Russell Weekend that honors trad musicians Micho, Packie, and Gussie Russell. The weekend (Feb. 22-25) promotes the musical heritage of Clare and this year includes a Friday night talk about the history of traditional Irish music and song. For more, visit michorussellweekend.ie. How can you get to Ireland? Great deals are available online and through travel agencies and also from the various airlines that fly there. So enjoy Ireland whenever and wherever you go.

The Irish Language
by Philip Mac AnGhabhann

Fáilte do’n geimhreadh! Is dochas orm go bhfuil tusa ag súi cóngarach do’n tine mhóna. “Welcome to winter! I hope that you are sitting near to a peat fire.” Believe me, there is nothing like the smell of a peat fire on a cold morning.

For a quick review, here are the Irish seasons:
Geimhreadh /GAYV-ruh/ “winter”
Earrach /EY-ruhk/ “spring”
Samhradh /SOW-ruh/ “summer”
Fómhar /FOHR-uh/ “autumn”

I think I warned you before not to say, “Fall” when you mean the months of September through early December. “Fall” for “The time of year when the leaves fall” is an Americanism.

In English there are two ways to count people. We can say “three people” or a “trio.” Indeed, we have several ways of saying “two” when it comes to people – “two people” can be a “pair”, a “couple”, a “duet”, or even a “duo.” Indeed, when describing musical groups, English can count performers all the way to “octet”.

Irish has a similar system – only it goes all the way to ten and is obligatory when counting people and *only* when counting people. We cannot say in either language a “duo of cows” except jokingly, although English can use “pair of” when counting “things”. Irish cannot. In Irish you must use the regular set of numbers when the number is followed by a **noun**.

Irish, then, has two sets of numbers, one for counting people – just as English does for musical groups – and one for counting “things”. The Irish don’t limit themselves to music. They can use these forms any time that people are involved. For example: “Three girls” is **Tri cailíní** but “trio of girls” is simply **tríúr** – no “girls” required. BUT ... (and there is always one) – you can use the regular numbers if they are followed by a plural noun – **Tá trí cailíní**.

If you remember about Irish numbers is that when you count in isolation – with nothing to refer to – you have to preface the number with **A**. This requires that numbers beginning with a **vowel** attach an **h**. So you have **aon** and **ocht** becoming **Ahaon** and **Aocht**. When counting objects the **A** is not required – **Ocht cailíní**.

“One”	a haon	
“One person”	duine amháin	/DOON-yuh wahn/
“Two”	a dhó	
“Pair”	beirt	/berch/
“Three”	a trí	
“Trio”	triúr	/troor/
“Four”	a ceathair	
“Quartet”	ceathrar	/kah-uh/
“Five”	a cúig	
“Quintet”	cúigear	/koo-guhr/
“Six”	a sé	
“Sextet”	seisear	/SHESH-uh/
“Seven”	a seacht	
“Septet”	seachtar	/SHAHK-tahr/
“Eight”	a hocht	
“Octet”	ochtar	/OHK-tahr/
“Nine”	a naoi	
No equivalent	naonúr	/NEEN-uh/
“Ten”	a dé	
No equivalent	deichniúr	/JEEN-uh/
“Eleven”	a haon-deug	
No equivalent		
Sometimes you might hear ...		
“Twelve”	A dozen “dháréag	/GAH-reg/

All of these numbers are **masculine** except “Pair” which, even when describing “men”, is **feminine**. This is a relic of Old Irish which had a separate system for “twos”. You can say “A pair” using **beirt** but “The pair” is always **a’ bheirt**.

Duine amháin means “one person only” and is used instead of the number “one.”

If someone asks you, **Cá mhéad duine?** “How many men (are there)?”, you can answer **Bhí seisear** or **Bhí sé daoine**. If you are not sure, you might want to use the word for “or”, **nó**. **Bhí cúigear nó seisear** – “There were five or six (people)”. In some dialects you might hear **Bhí cúigear nó sheisear** where the second number is **lenited** (aspirated). You will have to choose which you want to use but will be understood by all Irish speakers. We will not do this in this course.

Notice that after **Cá mhéad?** the **noun** is always singular. “How much are these bananas?” **Cá mhéad an banana seo?**

You do remember the idioms with **le** and **ar** that we learned the last two months. These included:

Cé bhí leat?	“Who was with you?”
Bhí Máire liom.	“Mary was with me.”
D’imigh lei.	“He went away.”
Bhuaíl mé le Seán.	“I ran into Sean.”
Tá ocras air.	“He is hungry”
Tá tart uirthi.	“She is thirsty.”
Tá fearg orthu.	“They are angry.”
Tá deifir orm.	“I am in a hurry.”
Tá slaghdán orm.	“I have (a) cold.”

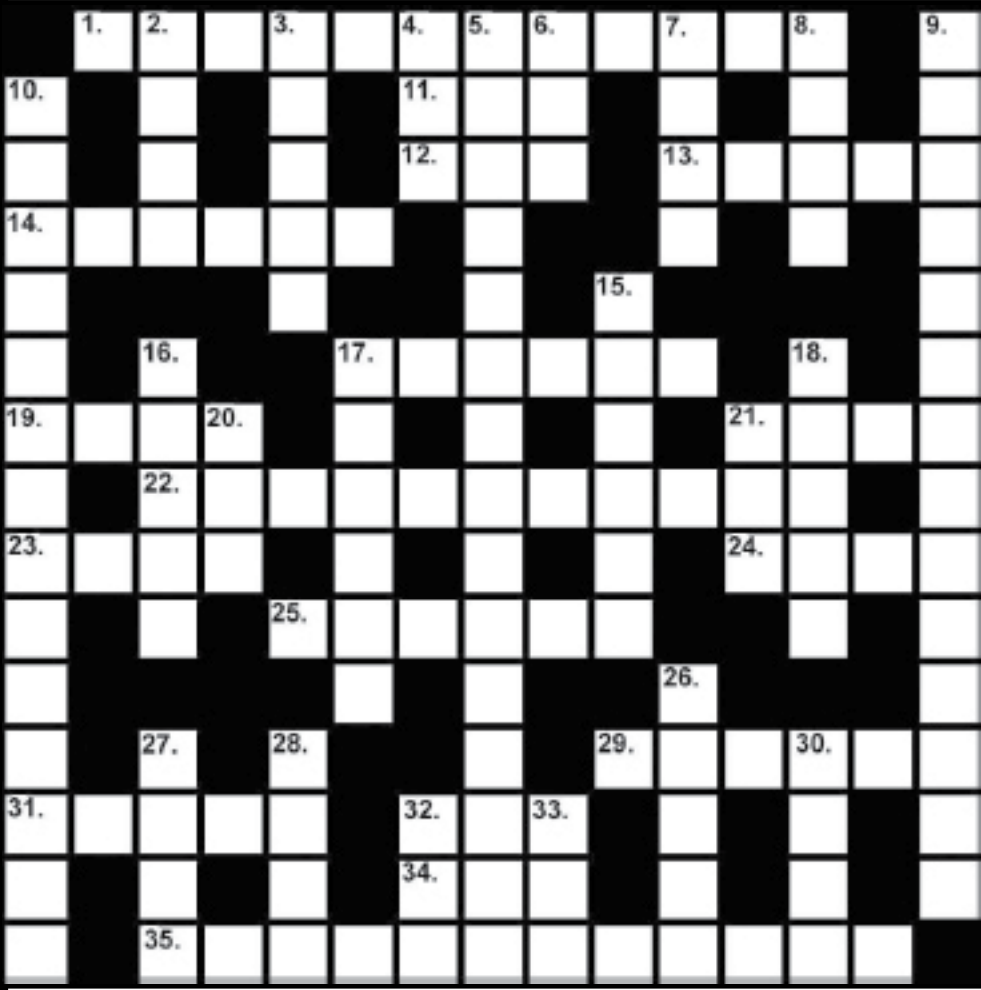
We will use these as well as some others both from past lessons and the numbers above to practice. Use only the numbers for “people” in this exercise.

Translate these into Irish: 1.) “How much are those potatoes?” 2.) “This man has a cold.” 3.) “There are four people at the door?” 4.) “Three or four men were at the shop.” 5.) “I’d like black coffee, please.” 6.) “Welcome to spring!” 7.) “There were ten or a dozen people in the church building.” 8.) “Will there be six or seven in the station?”

Answers: 1.) **Cá mhéad na prátaí sin?** 2.) **Tá slaghdán ar an duine seo.** 3.) **Tá ceathrar ag an doras.** 4.) **Bhí tríúr nó ceathrar ag an siopa.** 5.) **Is maith liom caife dubh, gun raibh maith agat.** 6.) **Fáilte do’n earrach!** 7.) **Bhí deichniúr nó dháréag sa heaglais.** 8.) **An mbeidh seisear nó seachtar sa stáisiún?**

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ACROSS

1. A cell dustbin goes astray in Irish capital stronghold wherein is St. Patrick’s Hall used for many state functions. (6,6)
11. Electron deficient learner fails to start jungle king. (3)
12. Conditional return of plant container. (3)
13. Wants to be born a detective sergeant. (5)
14. I moults badly in the last month in beautiful Timoleague. (6)
17. Did the cow sound colourful when the boat was tied up? (6)
19. “You write with ease, to show — — breeding. But easy writing’s vile hard reading.” Sheridan. (4)
21. Ardferd rekindling involves long migratory march. (4)
22. All one’s bail (anag.) Galway horse town with a well-known castle adjoining Garbally park. (11)
23. “There was — — ground where a man might linger, For a week or two for time was not our master.” Ewan McColl -The Travelling People. (4)
24. Noble but not quite on time. (4)
25. Cut back and see where the zloty goes round. (6)
29. This do suit, up in workplace. (6)
31. “Where fierce indignation can no longer tear his — —.” Epitaph of Jonathan Swift. (5)
32. Drunkard returns to south. (3)
34. Soft approach by United Nations initially is a wordy joke. (3)
35. Wants west tor. (anag.) Tyrone village near Coal-island and seat of Viscount Charlemont. (12)

DOWN

2. One nut I cracked. (4)
3. Peruvian pack animal seen coming back through Tuam all alone. (5)
4. Upset trash can to find the means of writing. (3)
5. Oh, R.U.C. tour ban row. (anag.) North Wexford seaside resort near Gorey with a 2 mile sandy beach. (8,7)
6. “Go to the — thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.” Proverbs Chap. 6 verse 6 (3)
7. Sound of Ireland’s first republican? (4)
8. “Nothing is — — done in this world until men are prepared to kill one another if it is not done.” Shaw (4)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

Irish Sayings ...

“People live in each other’s shelter.”
“The world would not make a racehorse of a donkey.”
“You are not a fully fledged sailor unless you have sailed under full sail,” “and you have not built a wall unless you have rounded a corner.”
“There is no strength without unity.”
“You must live with a person to know a person. If you want to know me come and live with me.”
“Praise the young and they will blossom”
“The raggy colt often made a powerful horse.”
“Age is honorable and youth is noble.”
“Youth does not mind where it sets its foot.”
“Both your friend and your enemy think you will never die.”
“The well fed does not understand the lean.”
“He who comes with a story to you brings two away from you”

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BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

The Charitable Irish Society hosted a President's Reception at the Irish Room, Gasson Hall, Boston College on Jan. 23. Guest speaker was Professor Joseph Lee, renowned Irish historian and director of the Glucksman House at New York University. His talk focused on the legacy of the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Dublin General Strike, long considered a prelude to the Easter Uprising of 1916.

1.) Tom Maunsell, Winchester; Catherine Donahue, Milton; Maureen Connolly, Hingham; Joseph L. Lee, New York University (event speaker); Teresa Brady, Hingham; Jimmy Maunsell, Medford, all Castle Gregory, Co. Kerry Ireland natives; 2.) Joseph Lee, New York University; Paul McNamara, Charitable Irish Society president; 3.) Neil Hurley, Somerville; John Rattigan, Newton; 4.) Margaret Flagg, W. Roxbury; John Connolly, Hingham; Cate McGrail, Belmont; 5.) Jeff Flagg, W. Roxbury; Barbara and Wayne Perkins, Milton; 6.) Caroline Heaney, Westwood; Ann Geraghty, Dedham; 7.) Danielle Owens, Cambridge; Ann Mulligan, Brighton; 8.) Tom Carthy, Dedham; Peter Fallon, Newton; 9.) Mike Dwyer, Westwood; John Hegarty, Medford; 10.) Msgr. Liam Bergin, Boston College; Jack Joyce, Wellesley; Jim O'Connor, Wellesley; 11.) Maryellen Lyons, Back Bay; Charles Dunbaugh, Beacon Hill; Carleton La Porte, Back Bay; 12.) "The Heightsmen."



JOYCE'S DUBLIN: GONE WITH THE WIND?

By THOMAS O'GRADY
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Punctuated with headlines to mark its being set in conjoined newspaper offices, the seventh episode of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, "Aeolus," itself punctuates the novel, announcing by way of its sudden typographical shift—and indeed by its first headline—that both the characters and the reader are now located in THE HEART OF THE HIBERNIAN METROPOLIS.

Specifically, most of the activity in the episode takes place in the vicinity of Sackville Street (renamed O'Connell Street in 1924), the main thoroughfare of Dublin both in 1904, when *Ulysses* is set, and now. Anticipating the buffeting flurry of busyness that Joyce's characters Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus will experience inside the figuratively bustling newspaper offices nearby, the episode begins amidst hubbub in the literal center of that street, the hub of the Dublin United Tramway Company: "Before Nelson's pillar trams slowed, shunted, changed trolley, started for Blackrock, Kingstown and Dalkey, Clonskea, Rathgar and Terenure, Palmerston Park and upper Rathmines, Sandy-mount Green, Rathmines, Ringsend and Sandy-mount Tower, Harold's Cross."

Famously, while writing *Ulysses*, Joyce declared to a friend, "I want to give a picture of Dublin so complete that if the city one day suddenly disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of my book." Joyce's intention continues to resonate for readers of the novel in our time, and Joyceans—both professionals (mostly academics like yours truly) and amateurs (devotees of the written word)—continue to walk literally in the literary footprints of Joyce's memorable cast of characters. But as I can personally attest, more and more of those footprints have disappeared—have gone as if blown away by Aeolus, the god of wind whom Joyce evokes in *Ulysses*—as the city has morphed inevitably and continually during the century-plus since Joyce began inscribing it on the page. More and more that reconstruction has to be undertaken in the mind's eye of the reader-turned-daytripper.

To that end, I have been browsing around recently in a book about Dublin's trams, those clanging conveyors of the citizenry of the "metropolis" during Joyce's time. Published in 2000, Michael Corcoran's *Through Streets Broad and Narrow: A History of Dublin Trams*, actually engages closely with Joyce's Dublin, as the tramway system was approaching a high point in its evolution at the time of the single day immortalized by Joyce in *Ulysses*—June 16, 1904: as Corcoran explains, a major extension had been completed the previous autumn, and October of 1904 would see the introduction of the DUTC's

first top-covered trams. While citing "four apparent errors, one of them perhaps intentional," Corcoran nonetheless gives Joyce high marks for his depiction of the system at various points in *Ulysses*, and many of the basic facts in Corcoran's narrative illuminate just how imaginatively Joyce took the geography that lay literally beneath his feet and reworked it in his fiction.

Writing specifically about the opening of the "Aeolus" episode, Corcoran notes: "The four tracks coming past the Abbey Street junction became six between there and the Pillar, the four inner ones going through a series of crossovers to form four terminal stubs right in front of the Pillar's entrance door. From these stubs began the journeys to all but one of the southside destinations listed by Joyce." How fitting that an episode defined by verbal bluster and physical bustle and shunting about inside the newspaper offices should begin in the center of Sackville Street; as Corcoran notes further: "It has been calculated that a tram could make upwards of 60 different movements between O'Connell Bridge and Rutland [Parnell] Square."

Gradually superseded by buses, taxis and private automobiles, the tramway system in Dublin had run its course by 1949; so only the earliest of "Joyceans"—professional or amateur—would have had firsthand experience of the DUTC as Joyce knew it. In a sense, then, the trams, which actually appear in numerous episodes of *Ulysses*, embody the theme of "gone with the wind" (a phrase spoken by a character in "Aeolus") that latter-day daytrippers have to come to terms with in trying to reconstruct Joyce's Dublin.

I was thinking that specifically last summer as I paused before a Joycean landmark that has withstood time's tax and toll: the statue of "Ireland's national poet," Thomas Moore (1779-1852), that stands on a traffic island next to Trinity College in the center of Dublin. Renowned for his "Irish Melodies"—mostly sentimental ballads set to traditional Irish airs—Moore figures frequently in Joyce's writing, beginning with several references and allusions in *Dubliners* and continuing through *Finnegans Wake*. But in "Lestrygonians," the episode of *Ulysses* immediately following "Aeolus," the reference is especially complex and thus especially revealing



An 'iconic means of transport': A Dublin Tram turns at the corner of Grafton Street and Nassau Street c. 1897-1904 (NLI, Clar 62).

Courtesy The National Archives of Ireland

of just how Joyce engaged in his imagination with what he once referred to as "the catalogue of Dublin's street furniture."

Writing with Leopold Bloom as the episode's center of narrative consciousness, Joyce packs a lot into just the first two sentences registering Bloom's passing glance at Moore's statue: "He crossed under Tommy Moore's roguish finger. They did right to put him up over a urinal: meeting of the waters." Even a casual viewer of the statue today will notice that Moore is represented in a "poetical" pose, with a book in his left hand and the index finger of his right hand conspicuously raised as if to emphasize a particular point. But most casual readers of *Ulysses* will not recognize that the word "roguish" alludes to an elaborate hoax perpetrated in the London periodical *Fraser's Magazine* in 1835 by a literary Irish priest, Father Francis Mahony (1804-66). Having created a fictional counterpart named Father Prout and also Oliver Yorke, the editor of *The Reliques of Father Prout*, a collection of his purported literary and cultural musings, Mahony had Father Prout set out to prove, in an essay titled "The Rogueries of Tom Moore," that a number of Moore's poetic verses are plagiarisms of verses first written in French, Latin or Greek—and as proof he presented the originals . . . which Mahony himself had written. Evidently, in Joyce's mind Mahony's own "roguery" would still be familiar in 1904 to even an ordinary Dubliner like Bloom.

Likewise, Joyce allows Bloom plausible familiarity with one of Moore's most popular ballads, "The Meeting of the Waters," which evokes the "sweet vale of Avoca" in County Wicklow where the rivers Avon and Avoca converge. While this ref-

erence may still resonate today for readers with an ear for Irish music, fewer and fewer Joyceans will know firsthand that, at least until the late 1970s, the traffic island which is home to Moore's statue was also home to a public men's lavatory. Yet that essential bit of knowledge illuminates not only Bloom's (and Joyce's) irreverent humor at Moore's expense but also the next sentence in the episode: "Ought to be places for women." As Bloom's throwaway musings reflect, Dublin Corporation, in a manifestation of lingering Victorian prudery, in effect denied the fact of female bodily functions by affording no public accommodations for them.

All of which, remarkably, eventually loops back to the Dublin United Tramway Company at the turn of the twentieth century. For just as Bloom's glance at Moore's statue transports the Joycean reader all the way back to Father Mahony's "Rogueries" in 1835, so does Bloom's sensitivity to women's needs carry the reader forward to 1961 and the publication of *The Hard Life* by Flann O'Brien, one of the preeminent Irish novelists in the generation immediately following Joyce. Set essentially in "Joyce's Dublin" (the narrative action takes place between 1890 and 1910), this darkly comic novel has as a subplot a scheme by one Mr. Collopy to outfit

trams to provide the discreet accommodations for women that Bloom sees lacking. Mr. Collopy explains his plan to his friend, a German Jesuit named Father Kurt Fahr: "Let us say that a lady and a gentleman are walking down the street and have a mind to go for a stroll in the Phoenix Park. Fair enough. But first one thing has to be attended to. They wait at a tram stop. Lo and behold, along comes the Black Tram. The lady steps on board and away she goes on her own. And the whole beauty of the plan is this: she can get an ordinary tram back to rejoin her waiting friend."

Obviously, Mr. Collopy's scheme is ludicrous. But O'Brien's linking it with Dublin's trams underscores the centrality of the tramway system to Dublin life a century and more ago, and in the process underscores how a book like Corcoran's *Through Streets Broad and Narrow* can be so helpful for the latter-day reader committed to "reconstructing" the heart of the Joycean metropolis. Aptly enough, my browsing through that book conveyed me not only deep into DEAR DIRTY DUBLIN (another headline from "Aeolus") but also backward and forward in Ireland's rich literary history.

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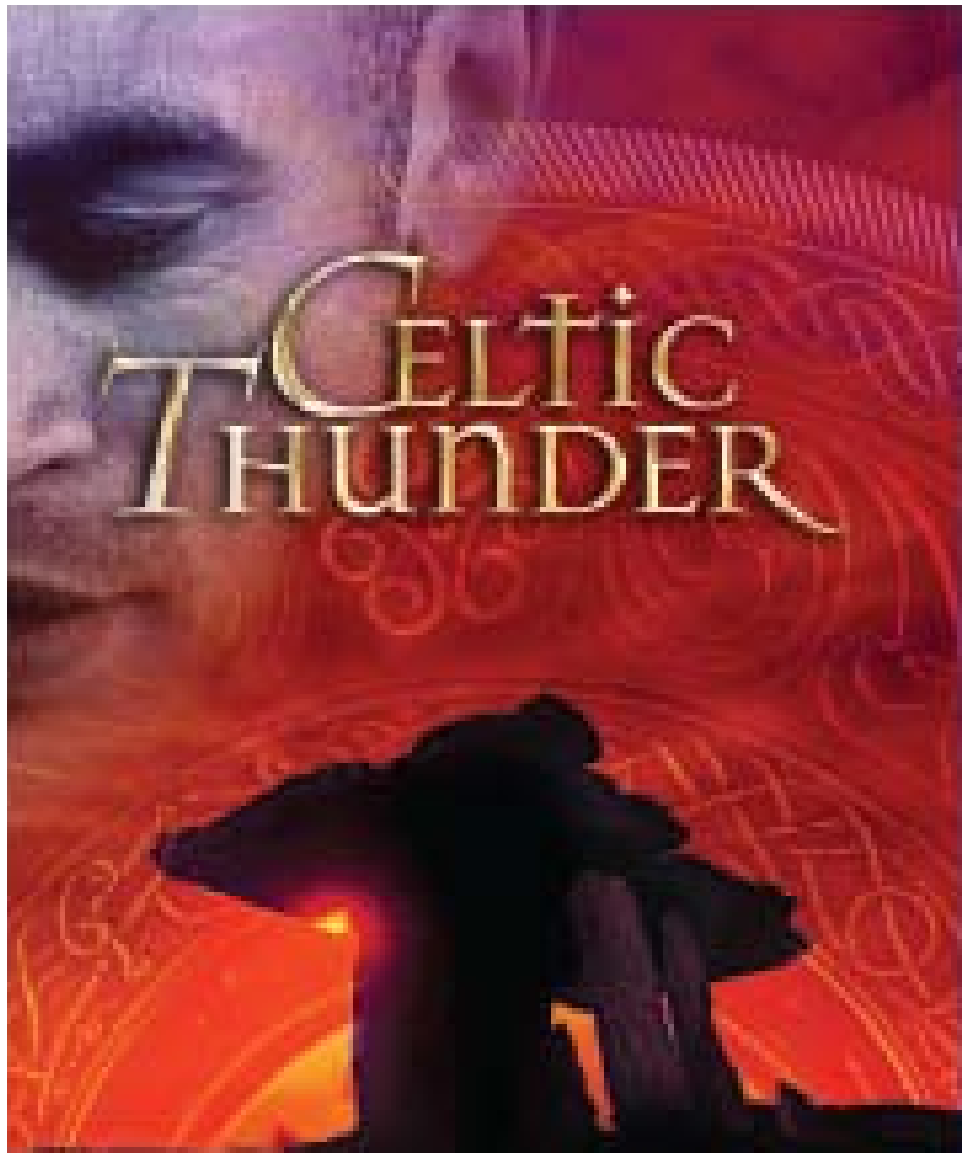
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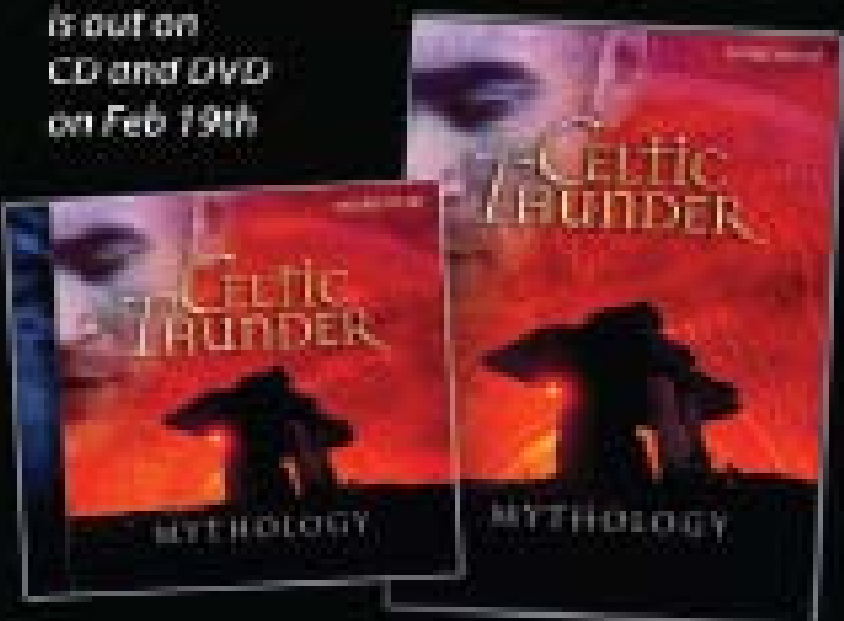
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